PRESENTED BY KAZUO KOIKE & KAZUO KAMIMURA

LADY SNOWBLOOD

VOL. 4

LADY SNOWBLOOD

RETRIBUTION PT. 2

STORY BY KAZUO KOIKE ART BY KAZUO KAMIMURA

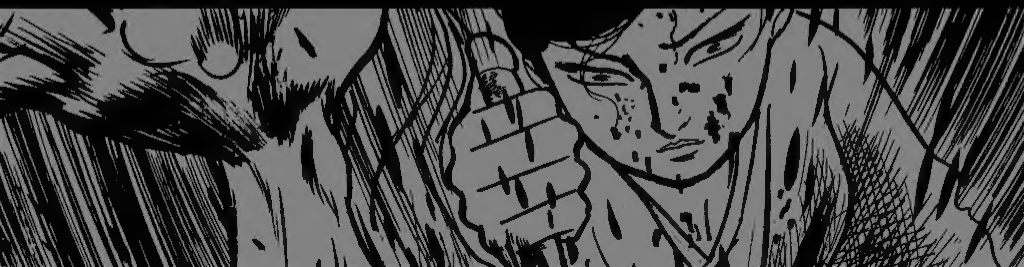
LADY SNOW BLOOD

修羅雪姫

VOLUME 4: RETRIBUTION PT. 2

STORY BY KAZUO KOIKE

ART BY KAZUO KAMIMURA



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by KAZUO KOIKE & KAZUO KAMIMURA

VOL. 4

RETRIBUTION PT. 2

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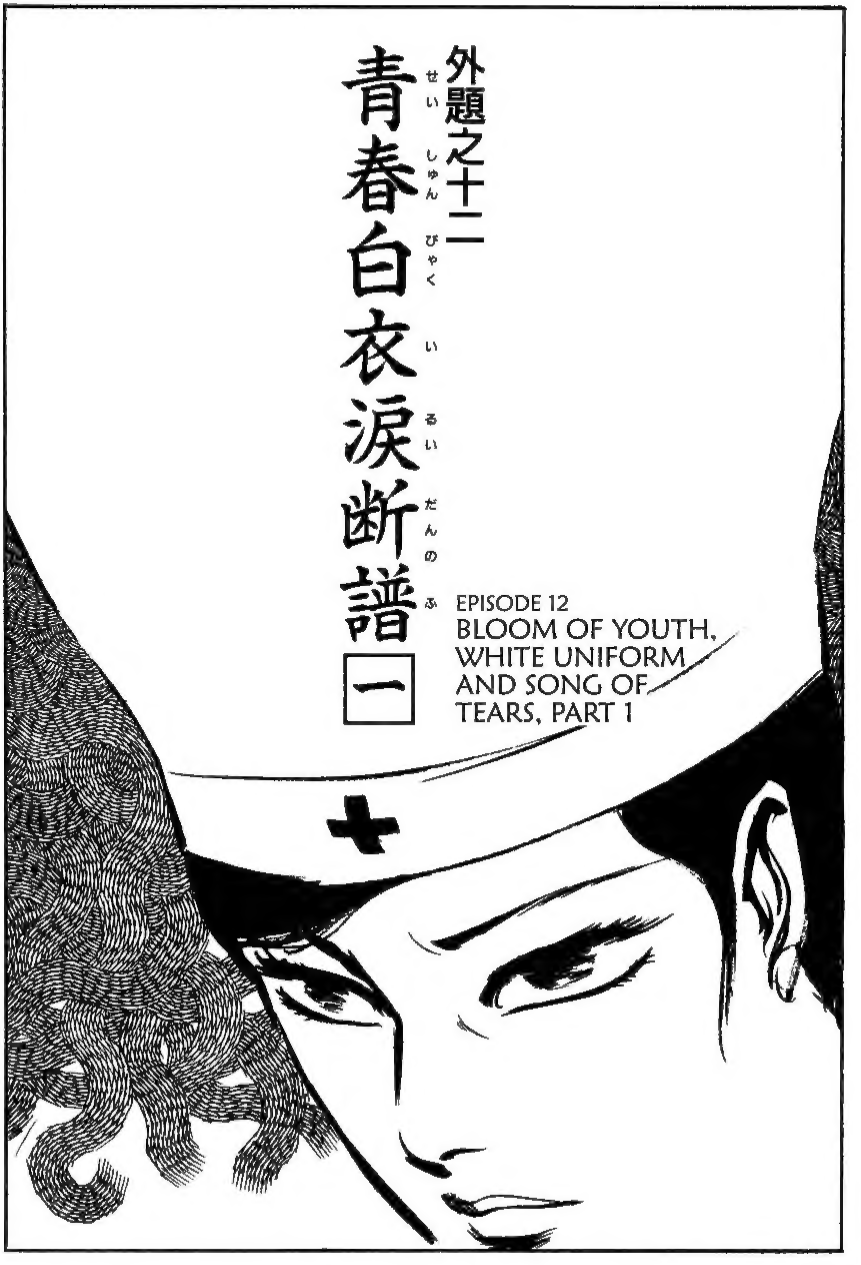
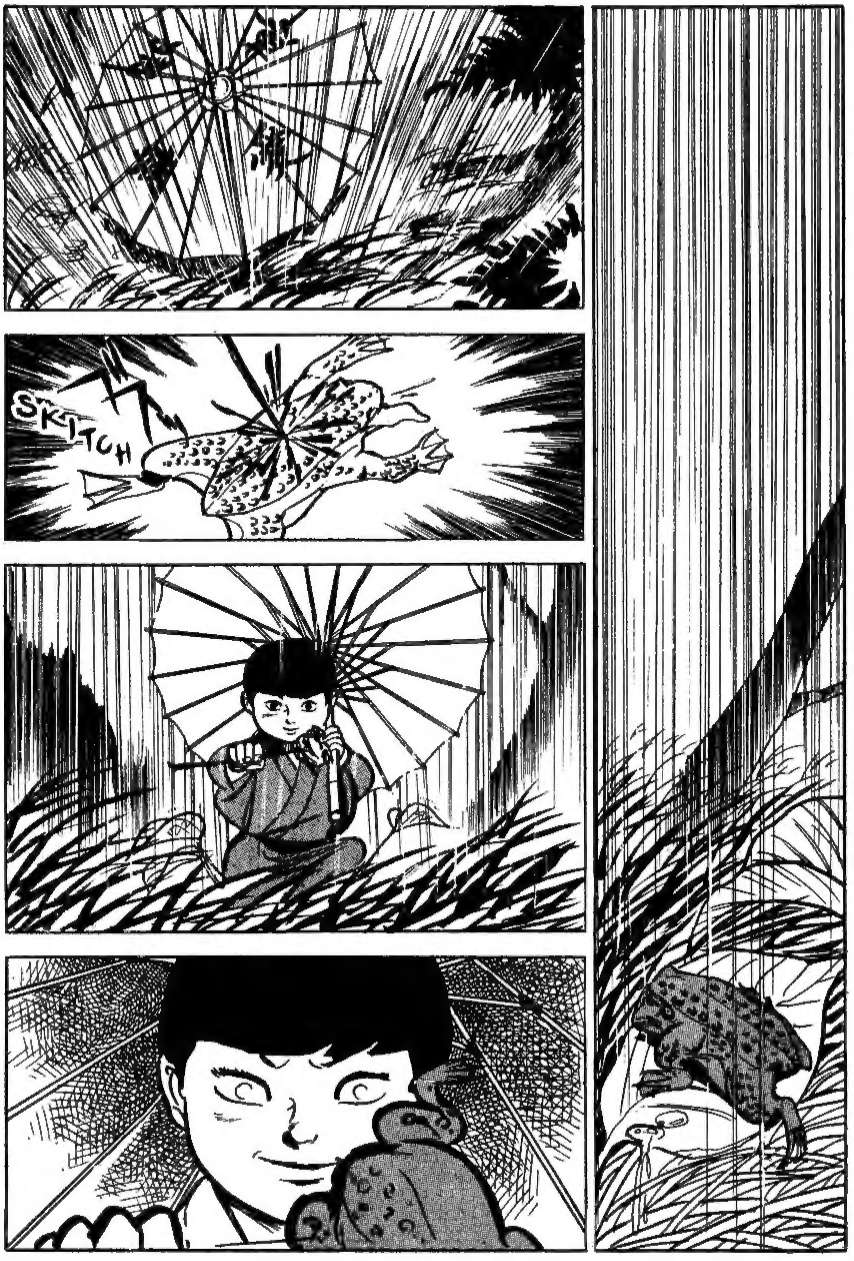
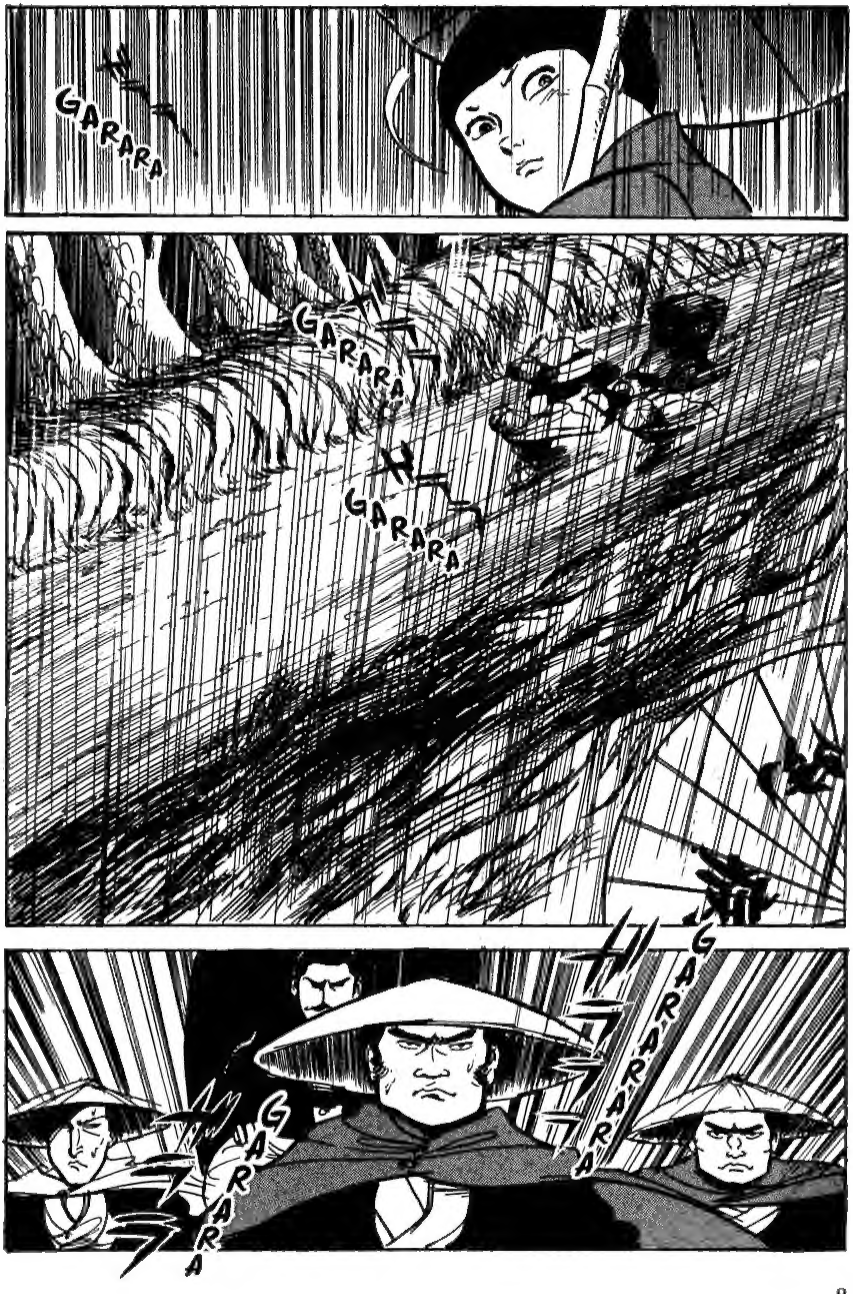
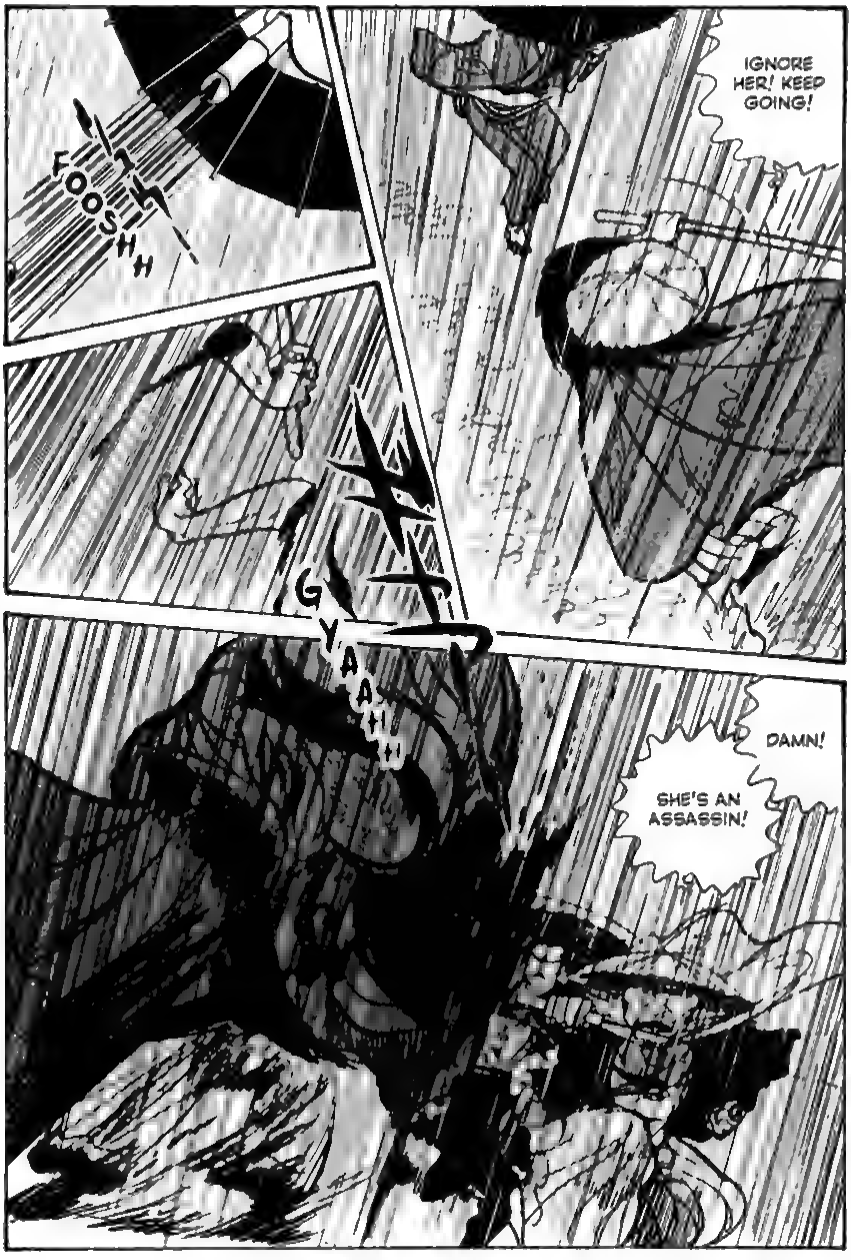
EPISODE 12
BLOOM OF YOUTH, WHITE UNIFORM AND SONG OF TEARS, PART 1



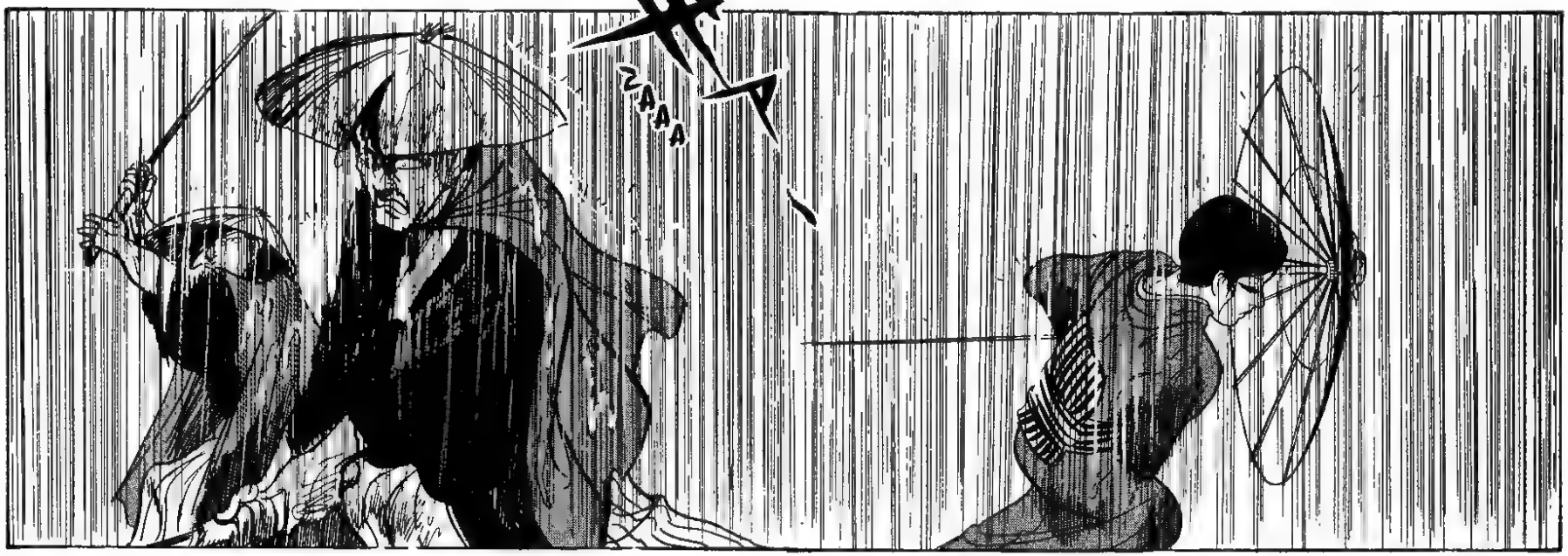

SKITCH

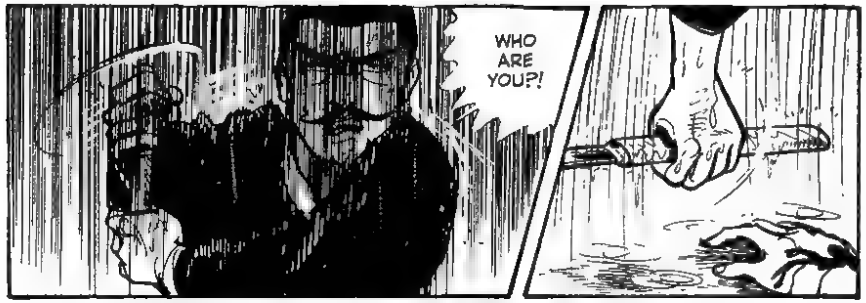

GARARA
GARARA
GARARA
GARARARARARA
GARARARARARA

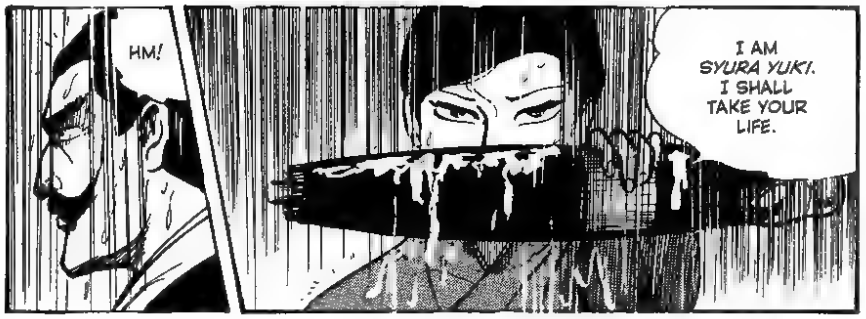
STUPID BITCH, GET OUTTA THE WAY!
MOVE!
YOU STOP US KNOWING WE'RE WITH MR. ITAKURA, THE LEADER OF THE KENSHIN PARTY?
WHO THE HELL?!


FOOSHH
IGNORE HER! KEEP GOING!
AH
GYAAHH
DAMN!
SHE'S AN ASSASSIN!

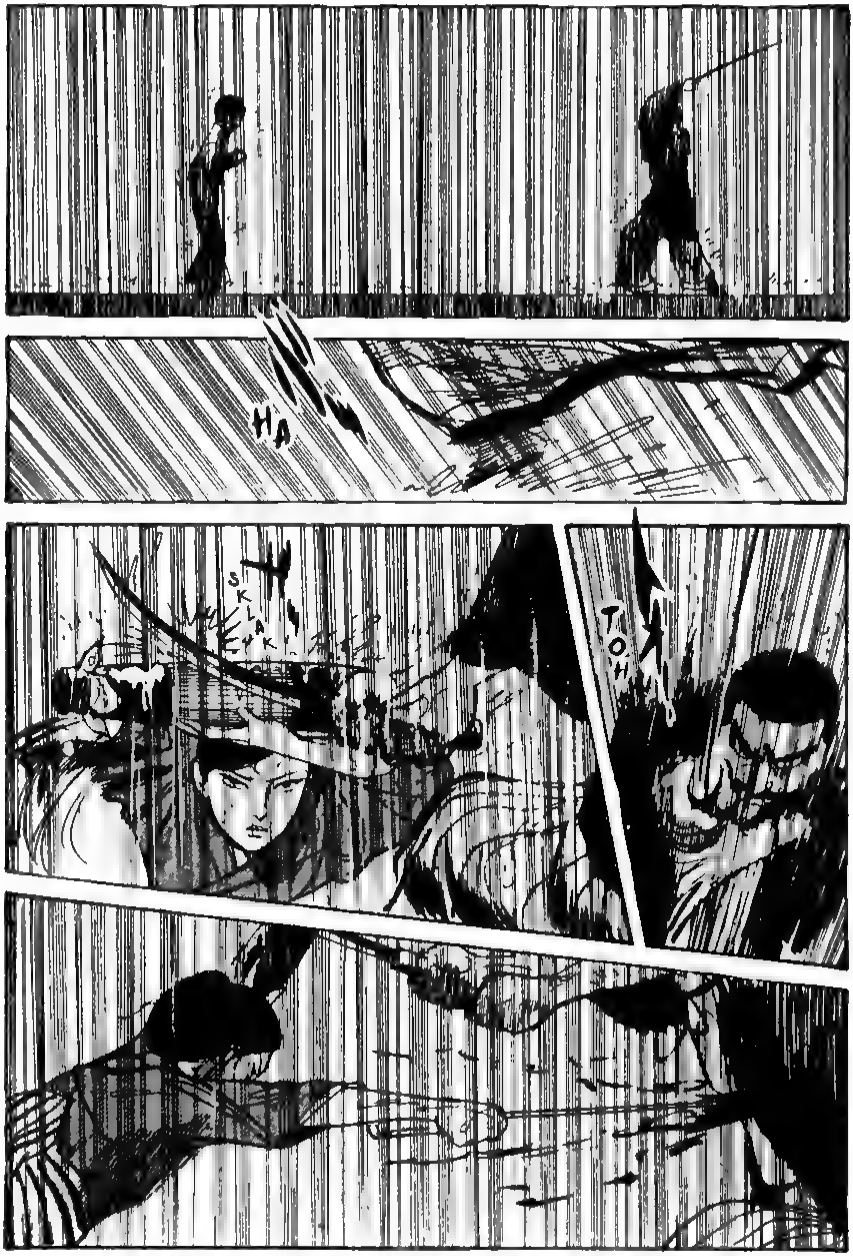
DON'T KILL HER! MAKE HER TELL US WHO'S THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THIS ATTEMPT.
BWAFF
GLUKK
KUNK

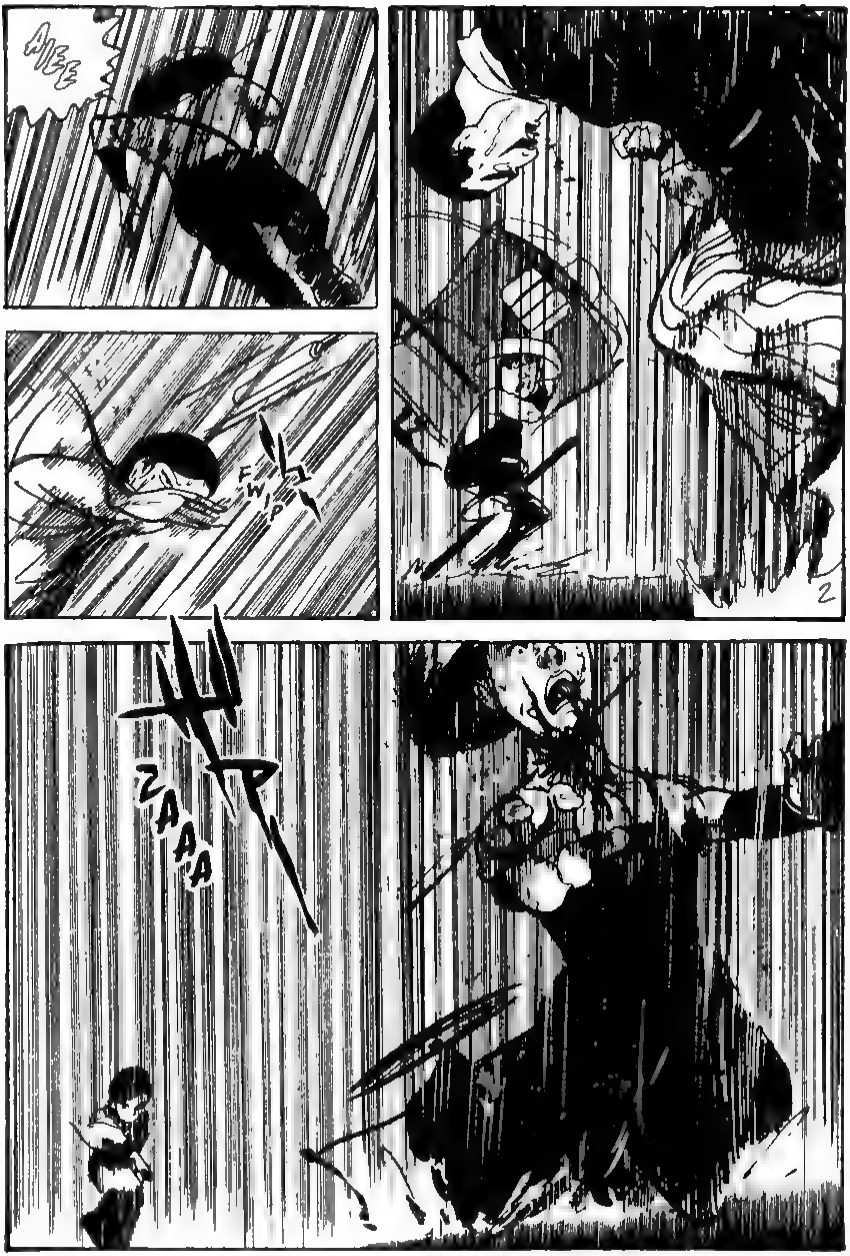

ZAAA

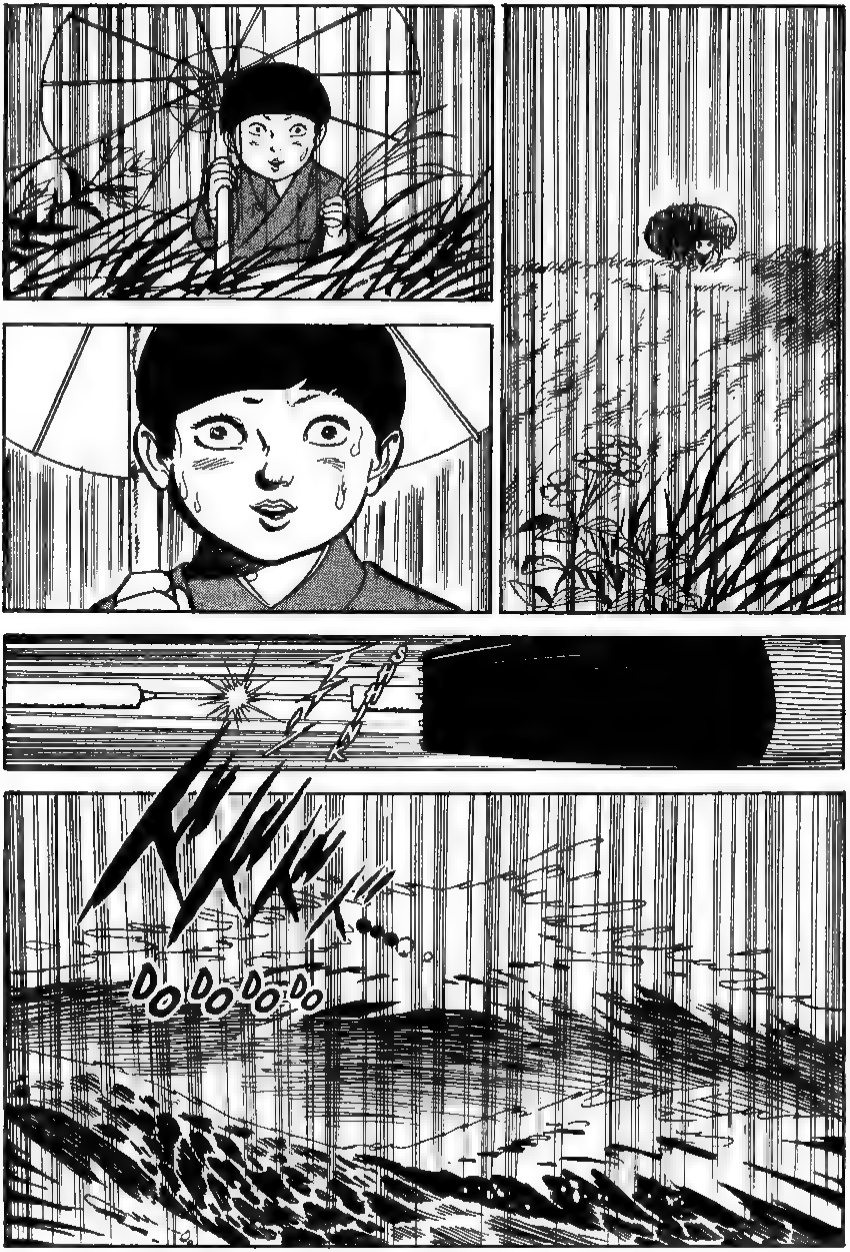

WHO ARE YOU?!

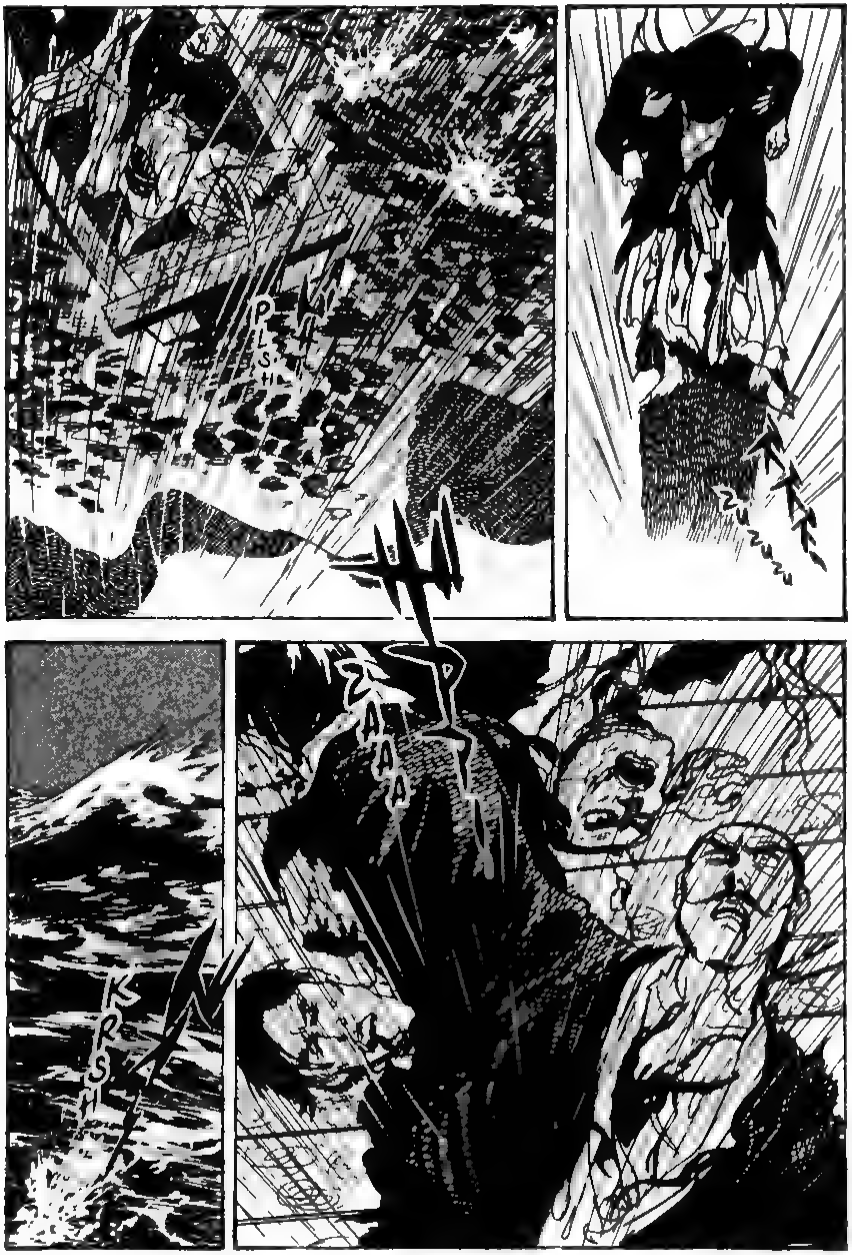

HM!
I AM SYURA YUKI. I SHALL TAKE YOUR LIFE.

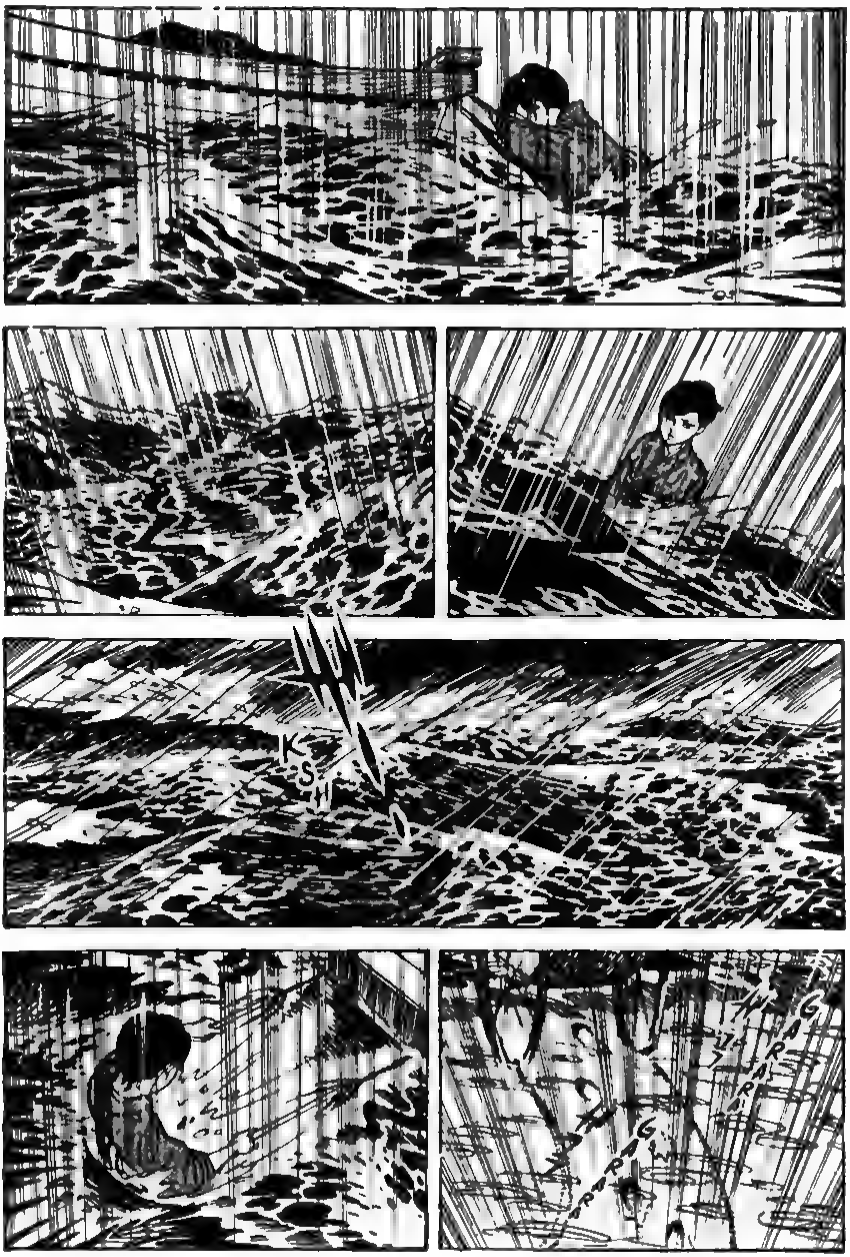
SPLOTCH!

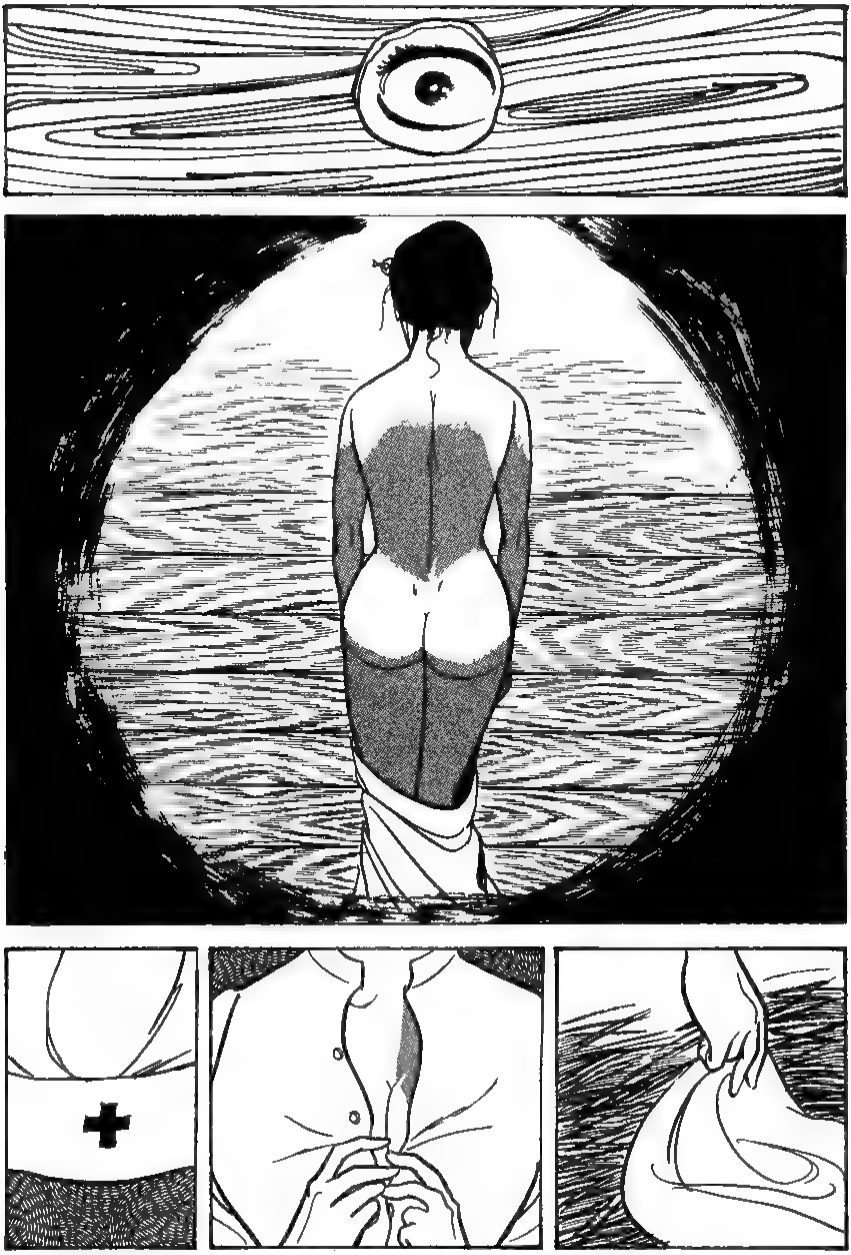

HA
SKIAK
TOH

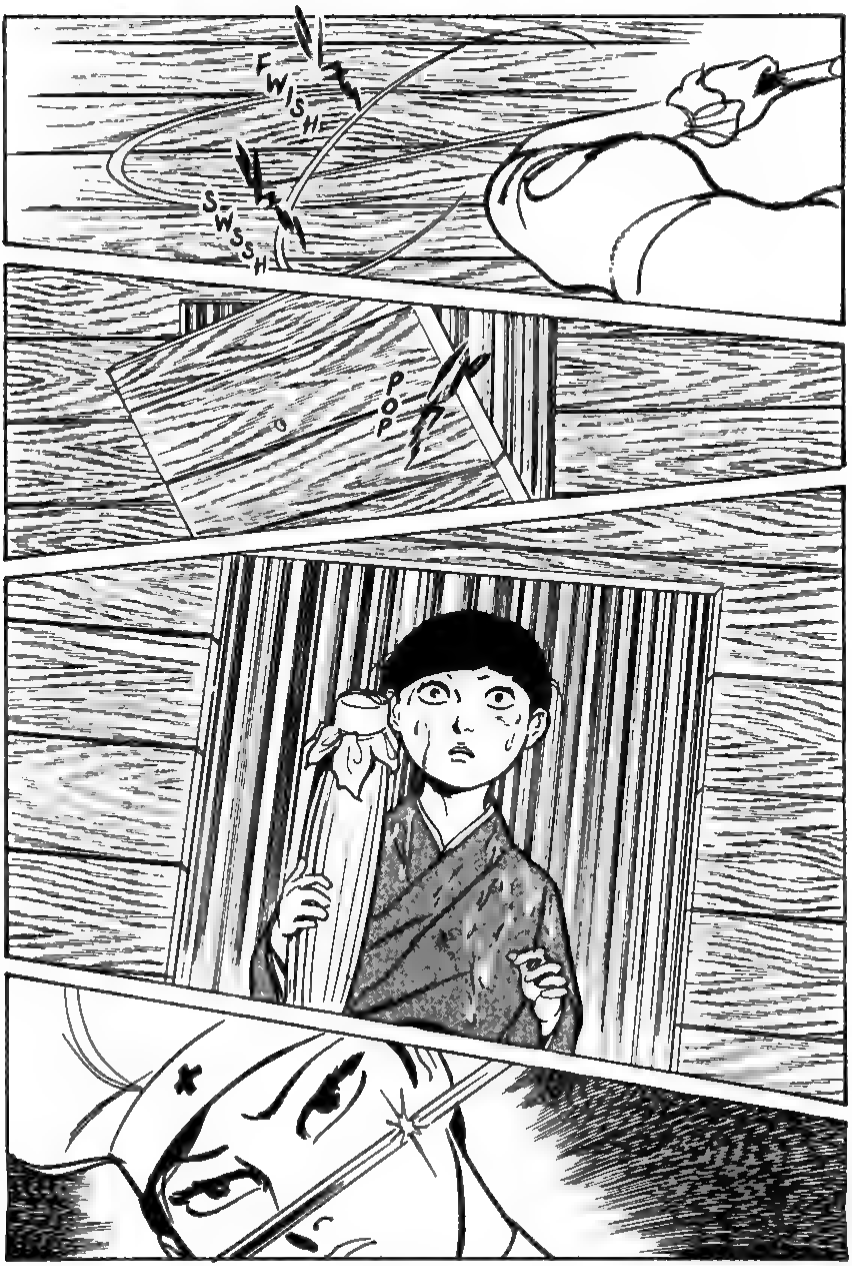

AIEE
F
W
P
ZAAA

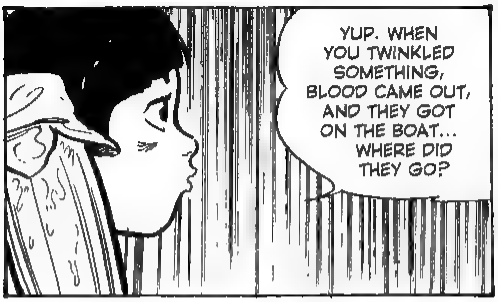

KNIFE
DODODODO

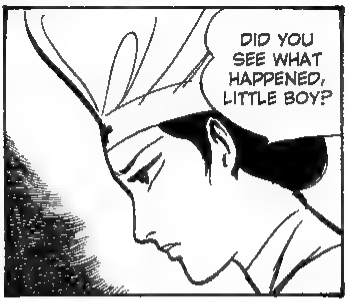

PLSH
ZUUUU
ZAAA
KRSH

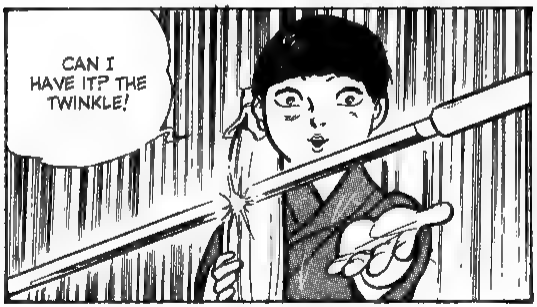

KSHI
GARARARARA
GARARARARA

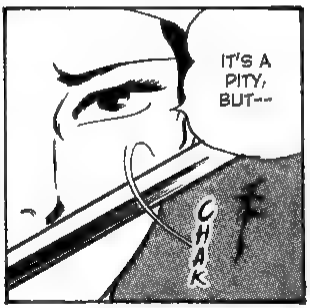


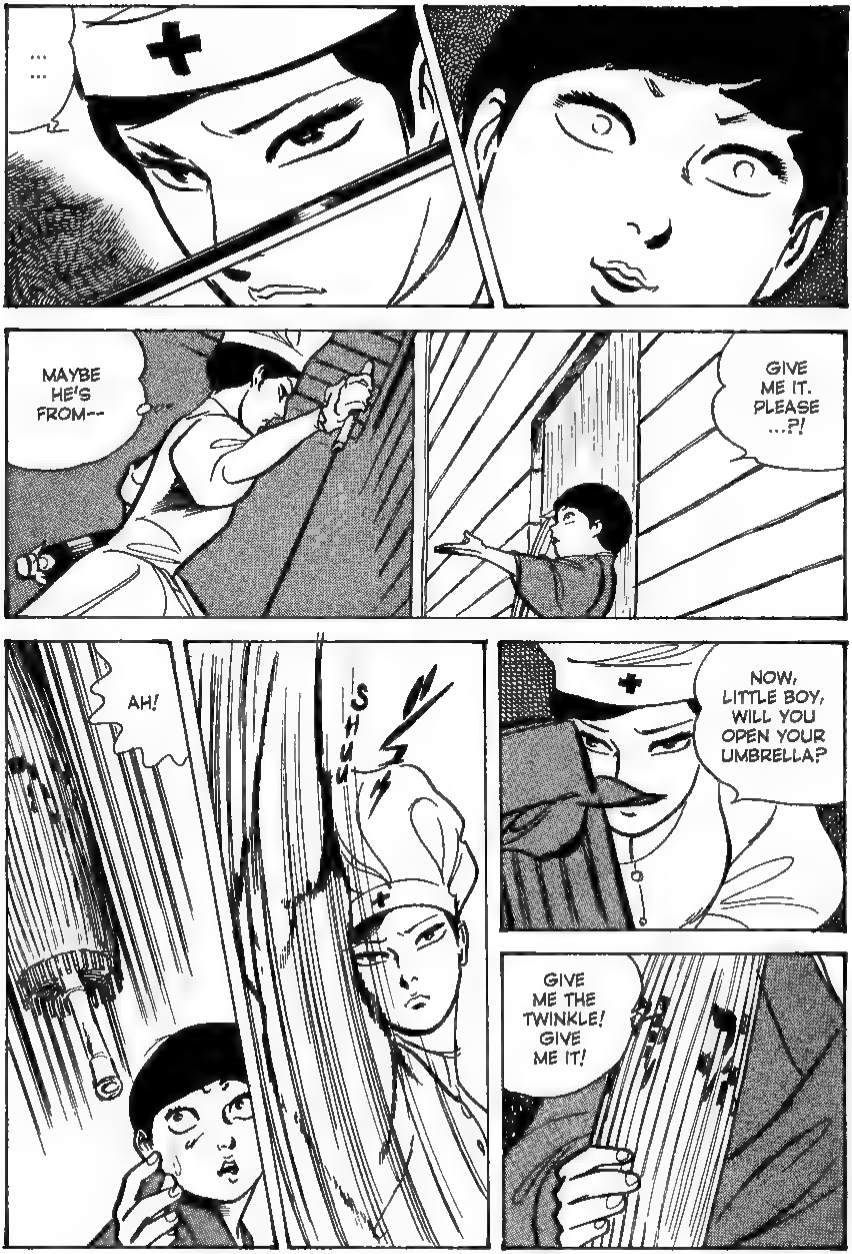

FWISH
SWSSH
POP

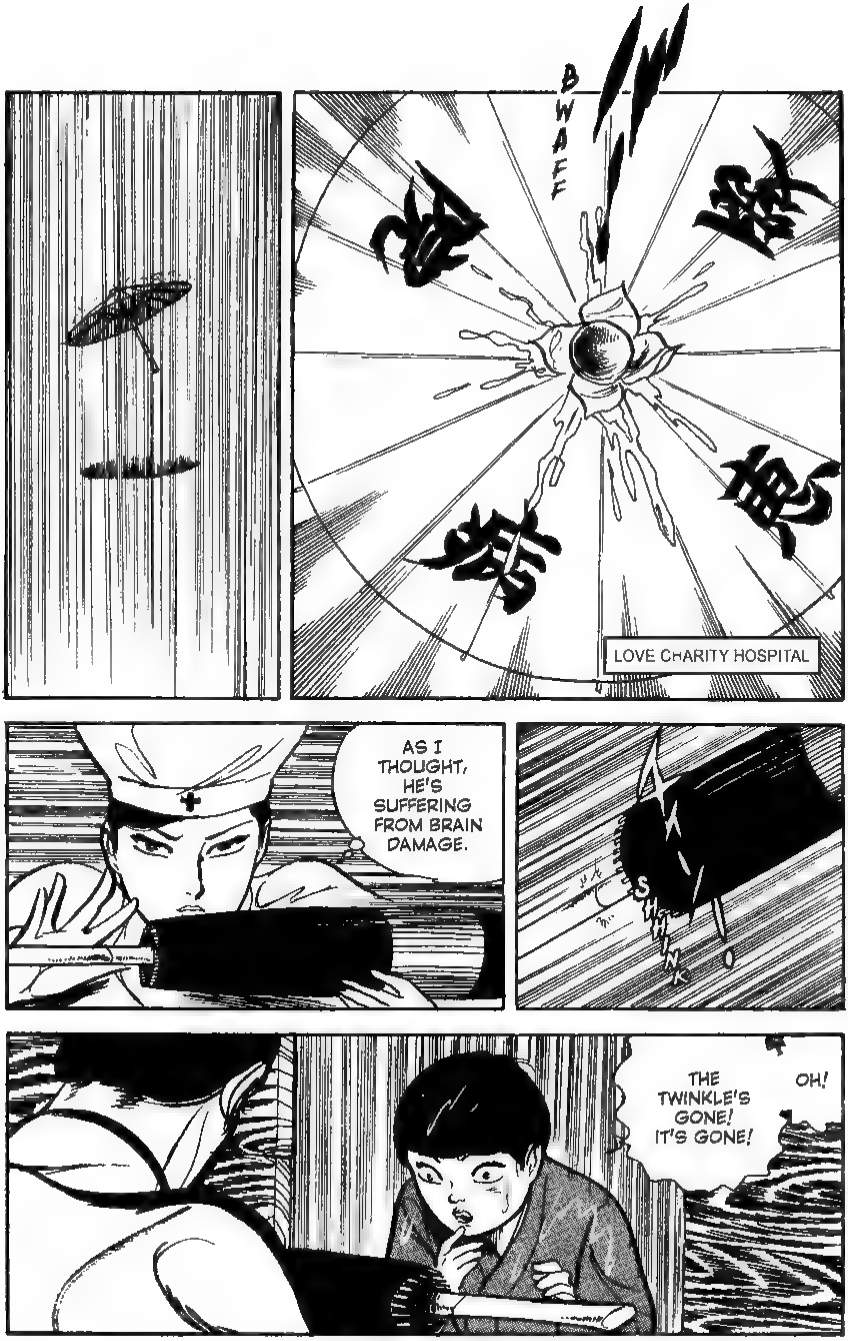

YUP. WHEN YOU TWINKLED SOMETHING, BLOOD CAME OUT, AND THEY GOT ON THE BOAT... WHERE DID THEY GO?

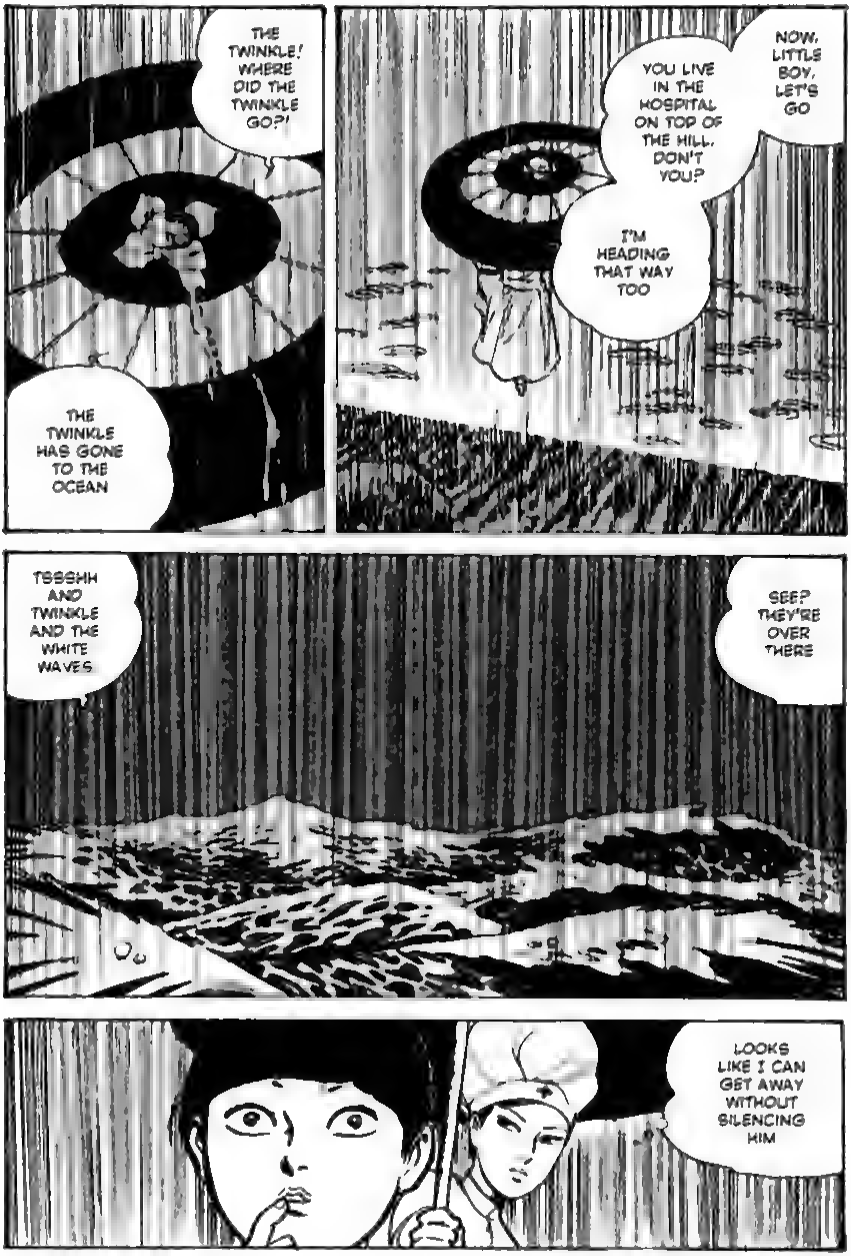

DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED, LITTLE BOY?


CAN I HAVE IT? THE TWINKLE!


IT'S A PITY, BUT--
CHAK

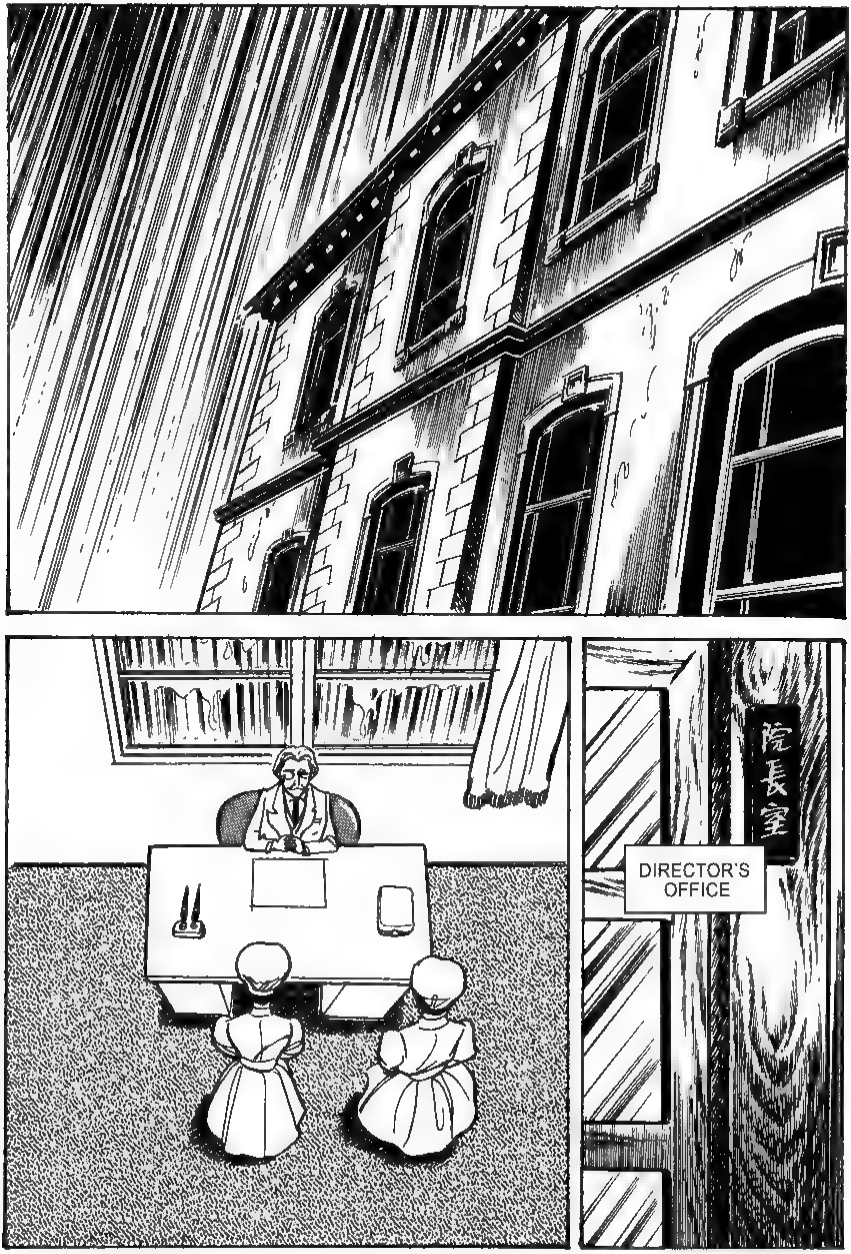

...
...
MAYBE HE'S FROM--
GIVE ME IT. PLEASE ...?!
AH!
SHUU
NOW, LITTLE BOY, WILL YOU OPEN YOUR UMBRELLA?
GIVE ME THE TWINKLE! GIVE ME IT!

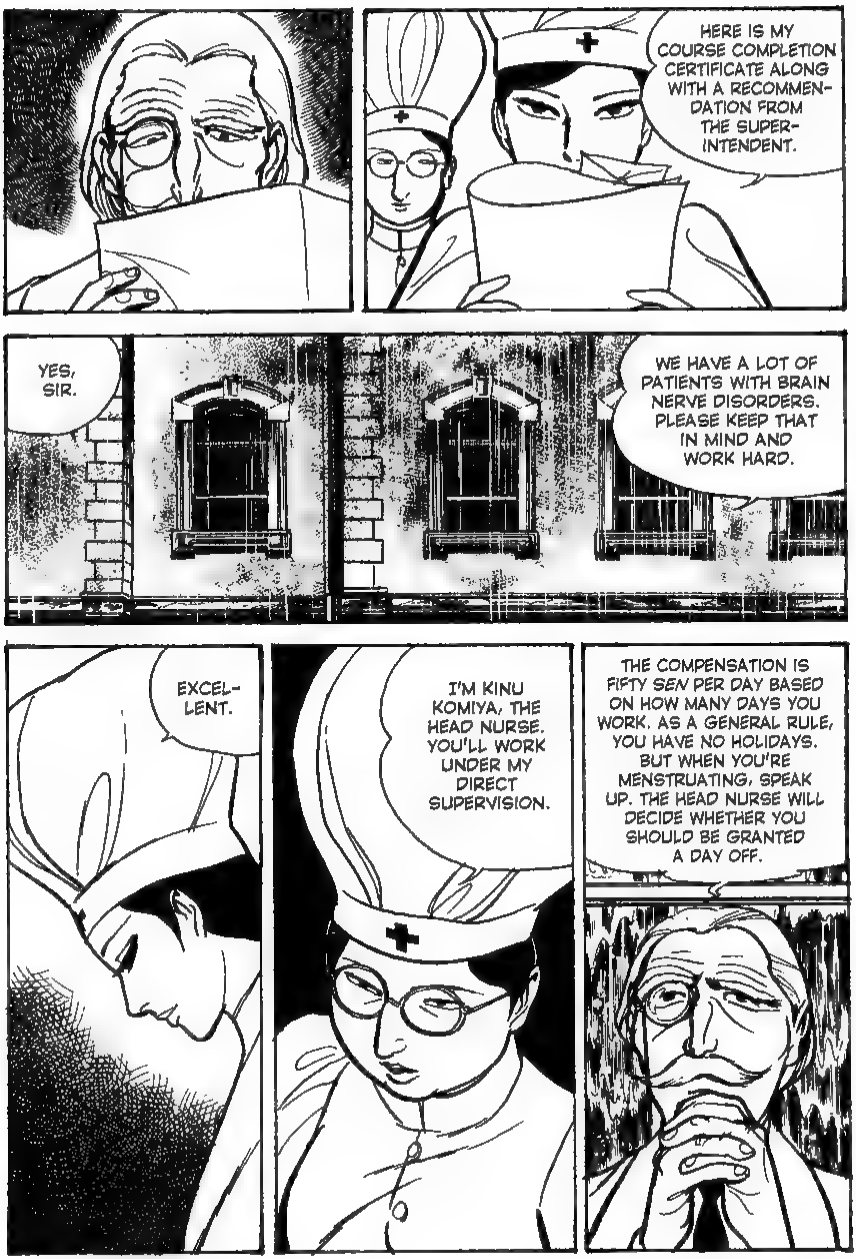

BWAFF
LOVE CHARITY HOSPITAL
AS I THOUGHT, HE'S SUFFERING FROM BRAIN DAMAGE.
SHINK
THE TWINKLE'S GONE! IT'S GONE!
OH!


THE TWINKLE! WHERE DID THE TWINKLE GO?!
THE TWINKLE HAS GONE TO THE OCEAN
NOW, LITTLE BOY, LET'S GO
YOU LIVE IN THE HOSPITAL ON TOP OF THE HILL, DON'T YOU?
I'M HEADING THAT WAY TOO
TSSSHH AND TWINKLE AND THE WHITE WAVES
SEE? THEY'RE OVER THERE
LOOKS LIKE I CAN GET AWAY WITHOUT SILENCING HIM

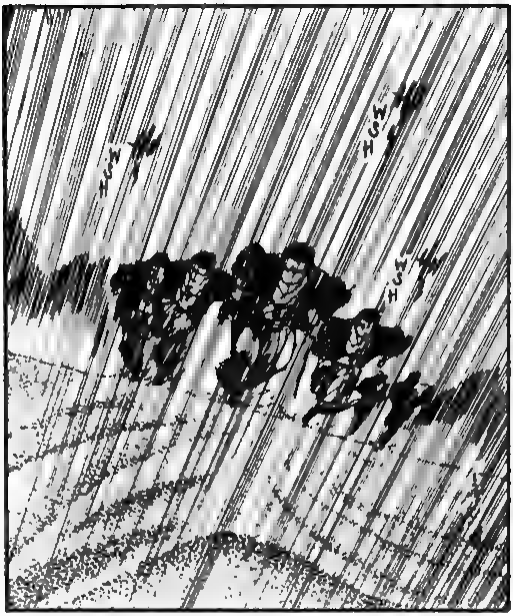
THERE WILL BE AN EMERGENCY ALERT AND HEAVY INVESTIGATIONS. EVERY AVENUE WILL BE BLOCKED.
BUT NO ONE WILL THINK OF ME HIDING IN THIS HOSPITAL. ESPECIALLY NOT AS A NURSE...
THIS IS A PERFECT PLACE FOR ME TO HIDE OUT UNTIL THINGS COOL DOWN.

MASTER RYOICHI!!
RYOICHI!
RYOICHI! WHERE ON EARTH WERE YOU?
I'M SHIZUE AIZAWA, A NURSE SENT FROM KYORITSU HOSPITAL NURSE TRAINING CENTER OF SHIBA.
AND YOU ARE ...?!


院長室
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

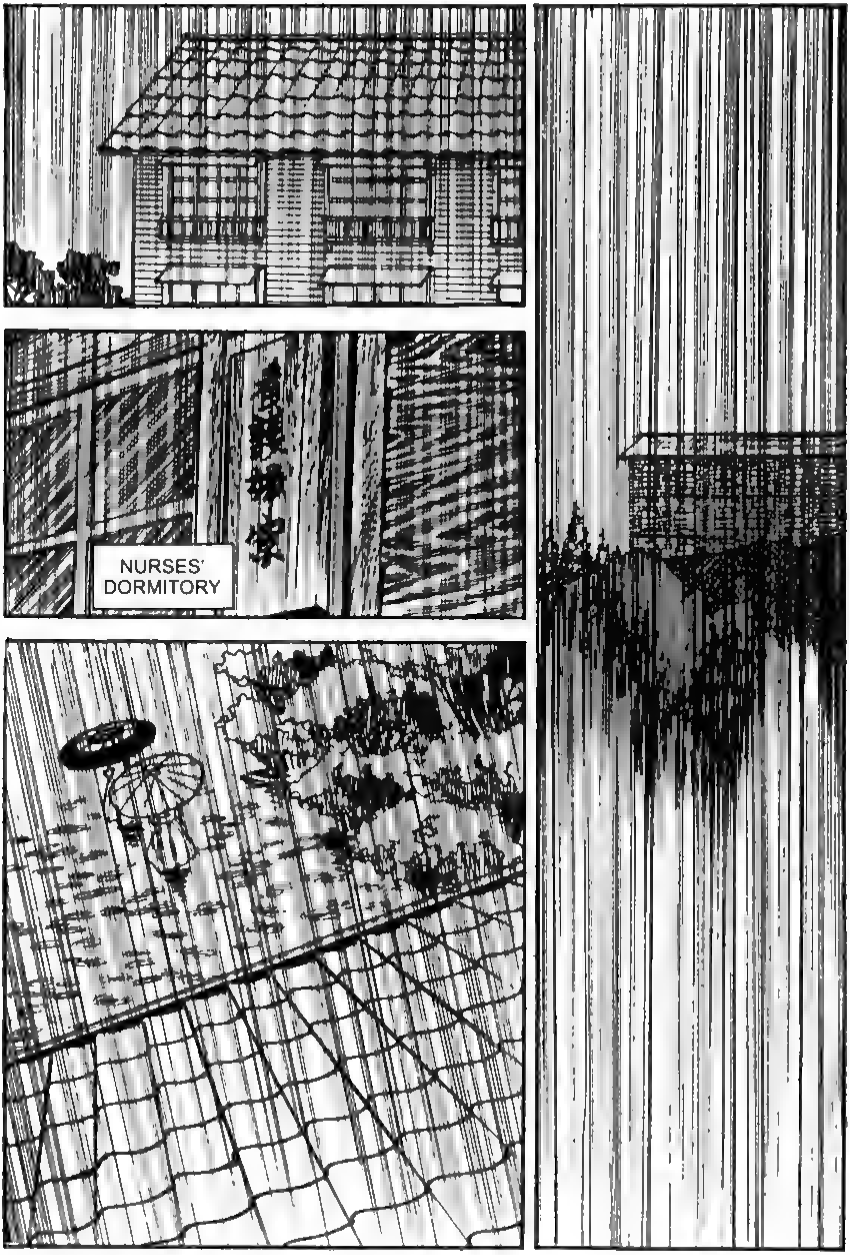

HERE IS MY COURSE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE ALONG WITH A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.
YES, SIR.
WE HAVE A LOT OF PATIENTS WITH BRAIN NERVE DISORDERS. PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND AND WORK HARD.
EXCELLENT.
I'M KINU KOMIYA, THE HEAD NURSE. YOU'LL WORK UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION.
THE COMPENSATION IS FIFTY *SEN* PER DAY BASED ON HOW MANY DAYS YOU WORK. AS A GENERAL RULE, YOU HAVE NO HOLIDAYS. BUT WHEN YOU'RE MENSTRUATING, SPEAK UP. THE HEAD NURSE WILL DECIDE WHETHER YOU SHOULD BE GRANTED A DAY OFF.

YES, MA'AM.
AND WE'LL *SHARE* A DORMITORY.


HUH
HUH
HUH

EACH WITH A SINGLE STRIKE. A MAN WITH FRIGHTENING SKILL. BUT THE WOUNDS SUGGEST AN EXTREMELY SHARP BLADE, LIKE A WESTERN SWORD. HMMM.

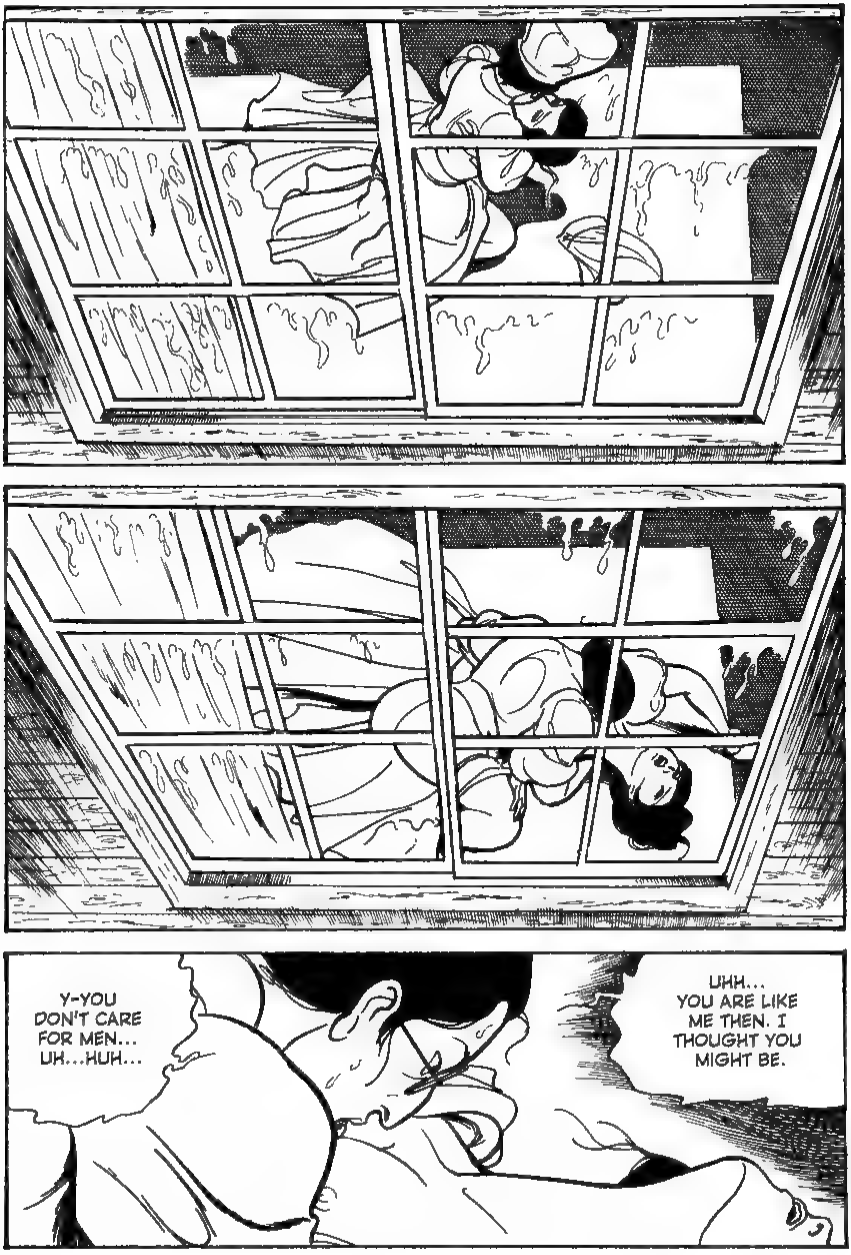
BASTARDS! IT'S UNFORGIVABLE. WE'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS!
IS THE RIKKEN JIYU PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?
DAMN! WHO THE HELL DID THIS?!
OH GOD!
FIND THE OWNER OF THIS FISHING BOAT TOO!
BLOCK EVERY ROAD AND TAKE EMERGENCY POSITIONS. THE PERPETRATOR CANNOT HAVE GONE TOO FAR.
YES, SIR.
YES, SIR!

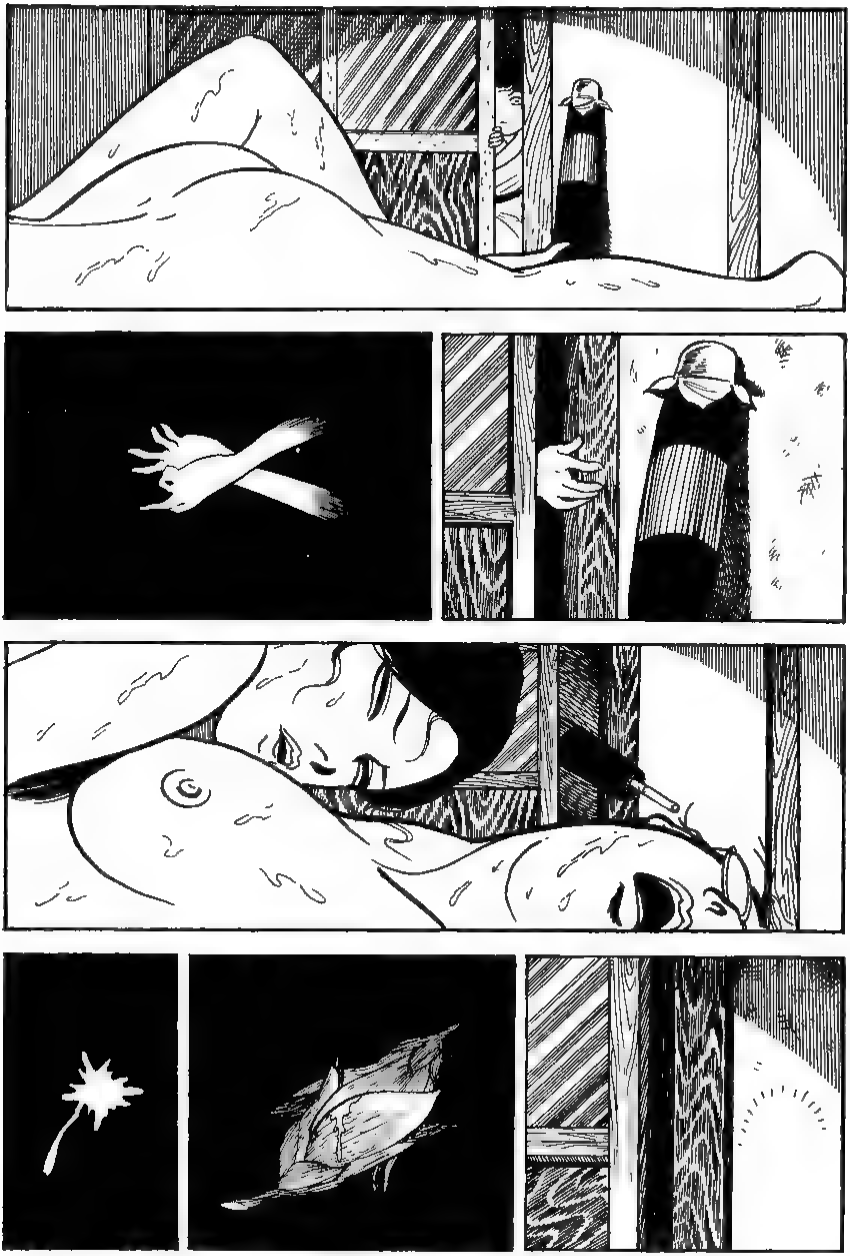

NURSES'
DORMITORY

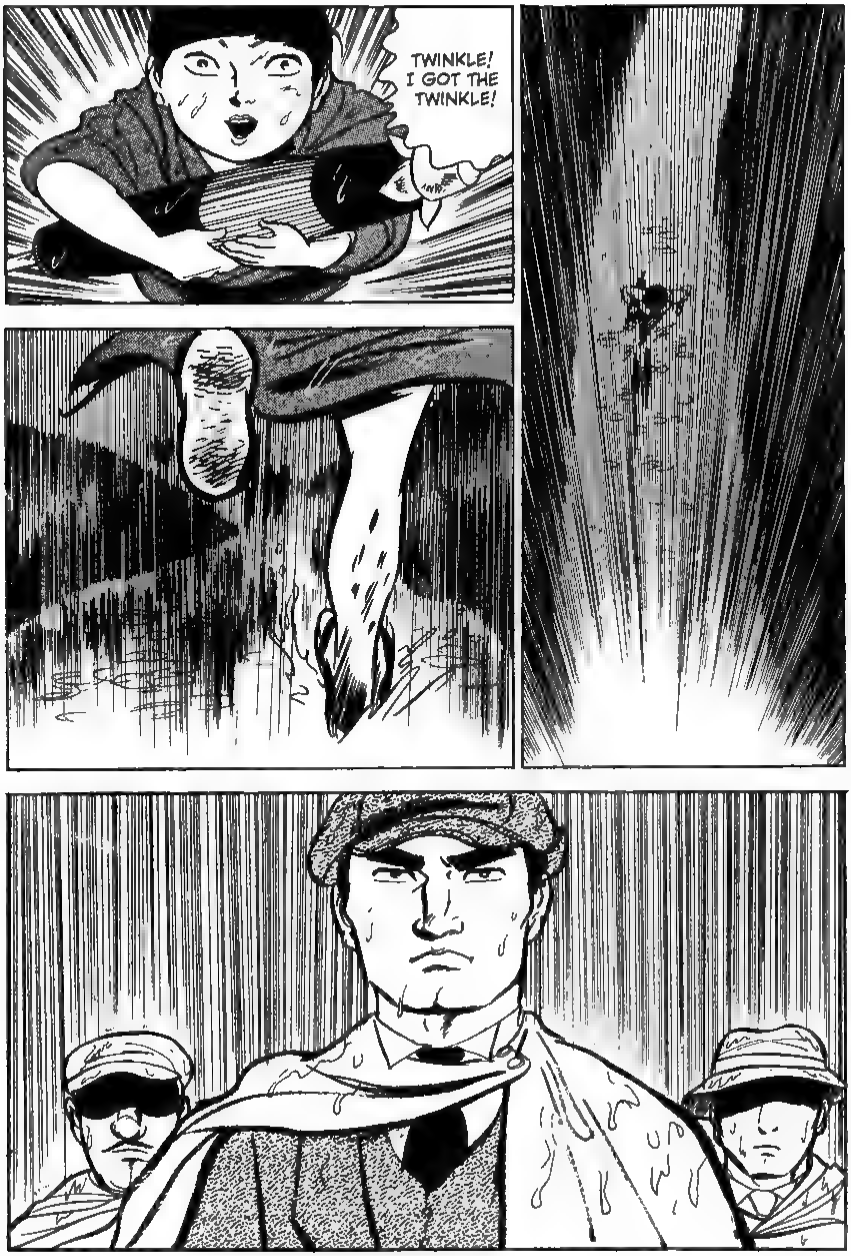
RYOICHI! WHERE ARE YOU?!
RYO-ICHI!
GASA

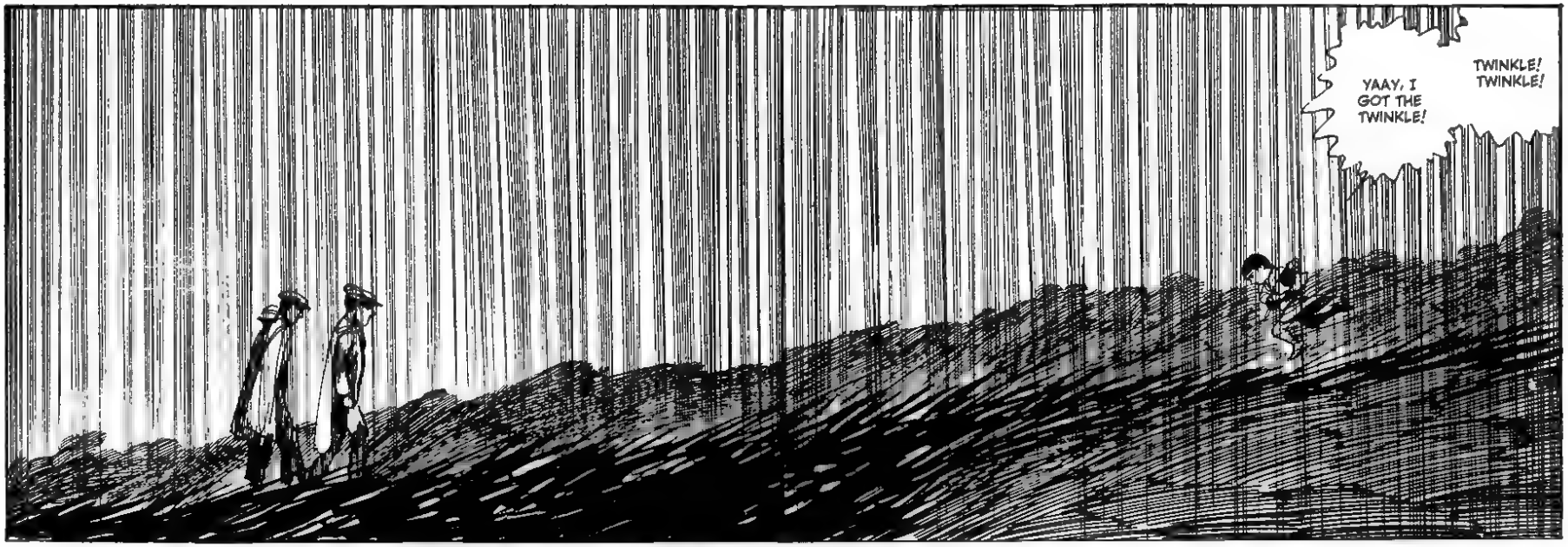
I'M HONORED TO BE YOUR ROOM-MATE, HEAD NURSE.
WE'LL SHARE THIS ROOM.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GET YOU FRESH BEDDING, AND YOU CAN USE MY THINGS TOO.
WHERE'S YOUR BAG?
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
THIS IS ALL. I HEARD THAT YOU PROVIDE BEDDING, SO I DIDN'T BRING MUCH WITH ME...
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE WELCOME TO USE MY THINGS.
WE'RE GOING TO LIVE TOGETHER, SO WE SHOULD HELP EACH OTHER.

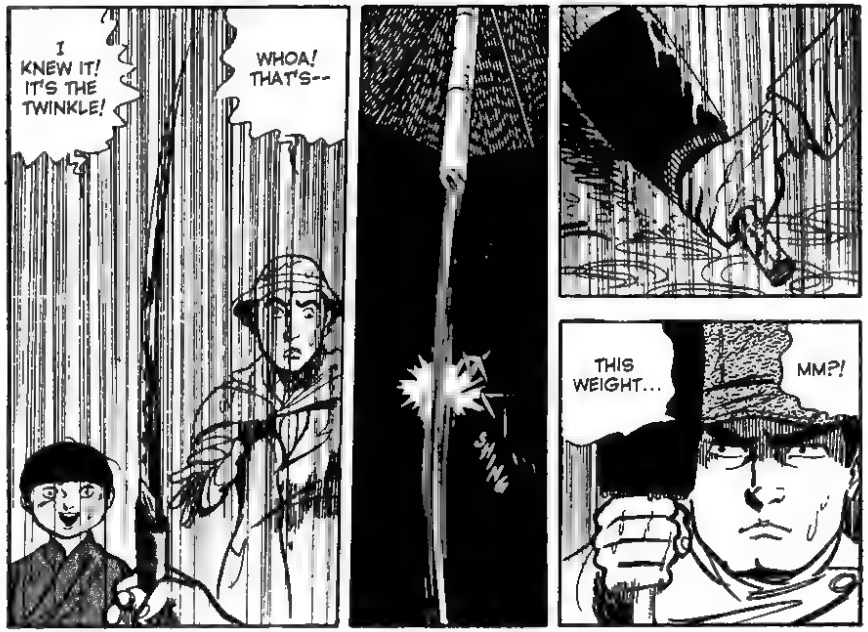
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING AT ALL, PLEASE COME AND TALK TO ME. I'LL BE HAPPY TO HELP.
WHAT BEAUTIFUL SKIN YOU HAVE!
UHH... H-HEAD NURSE...
C-CALL ME DEAR SISTER. TH-THE MOMENT I SET MY EYES ON YOU... I...I...

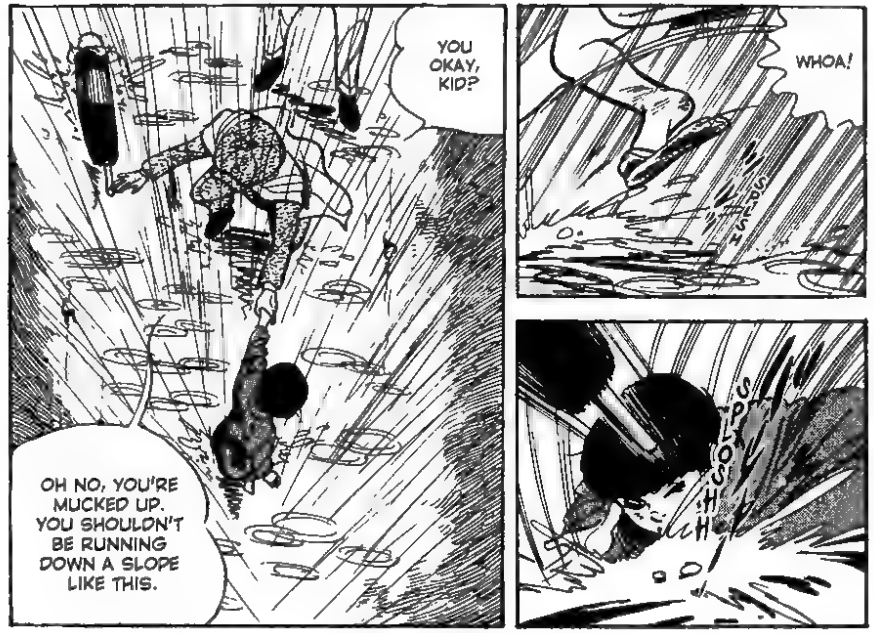

Y-YOU DON'T CARE FOR MEN... UH...HUH...
UHH... YOU ARE LIKE ME THEN. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE.




TWINKLE! I GOT THE TWINKLE!


YAAY, I GOT THE TWINKLE!
TWINKLE! TWINKLE!

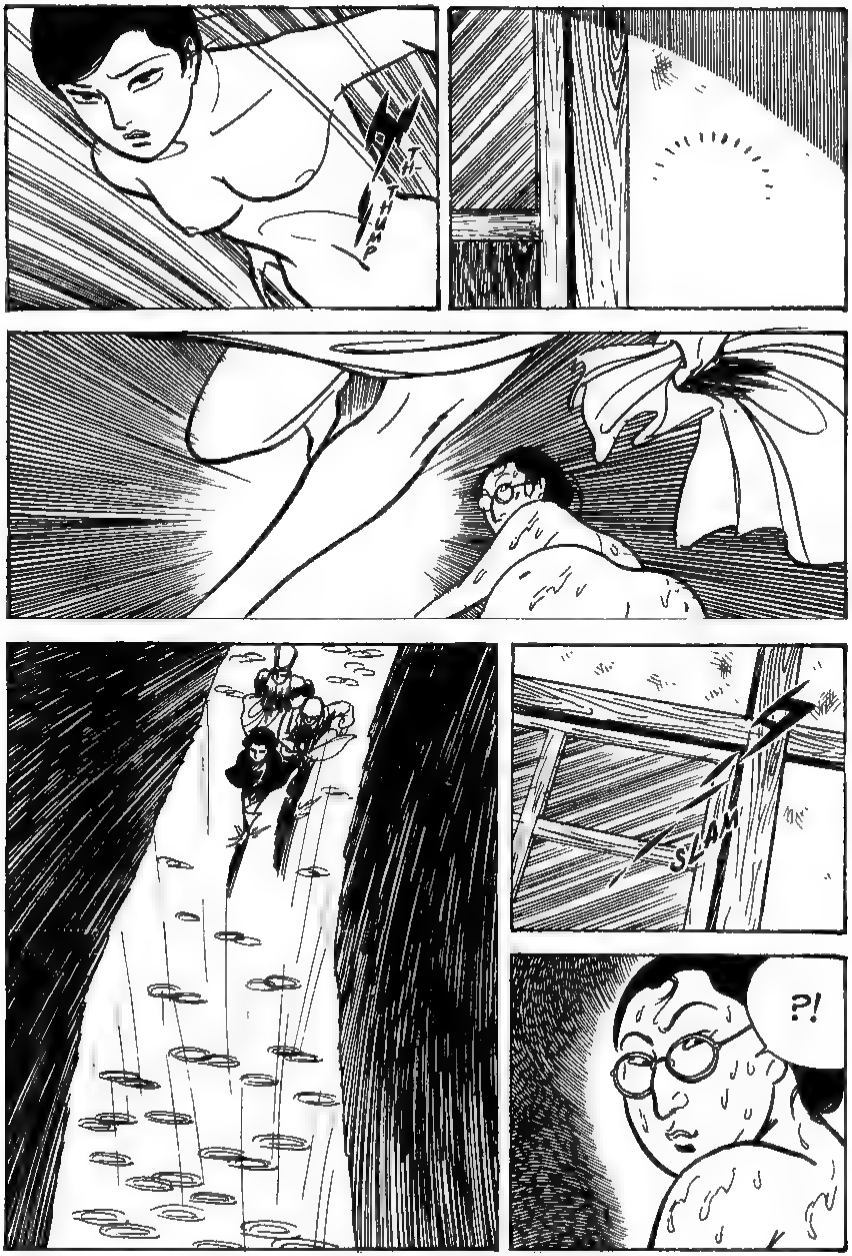

I KNEW IT! IT'S THE TWINKLE!
WHOA! THAT'S--
SWING
THIS WEIGHT...
MM?!


YOU OKAY, KID?
OH NO, YOU'RE MUCKED UP. YOU SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING DOWN A SLOPE LIKE THIS.
WHOA!
SUPPOSH
SUPPOSH

TERRIBLE BLOOD STAINS...I BET IT WAS JUST USED TO KILL SOMEONE... AND THAT MEANS...
MM.
GIMME BACK MY TWINKLE!
IT'S MY TWINKLE! GIMME BACK!
NOW, BE GOOD AND--
KID, WHERE DID YOU GET THIS? COME NOW. WILL YOU TELL ME?
WHOA! NO!
CHOMP

BA
KABLAAMM
OH...

KABLAM!
UH!
!

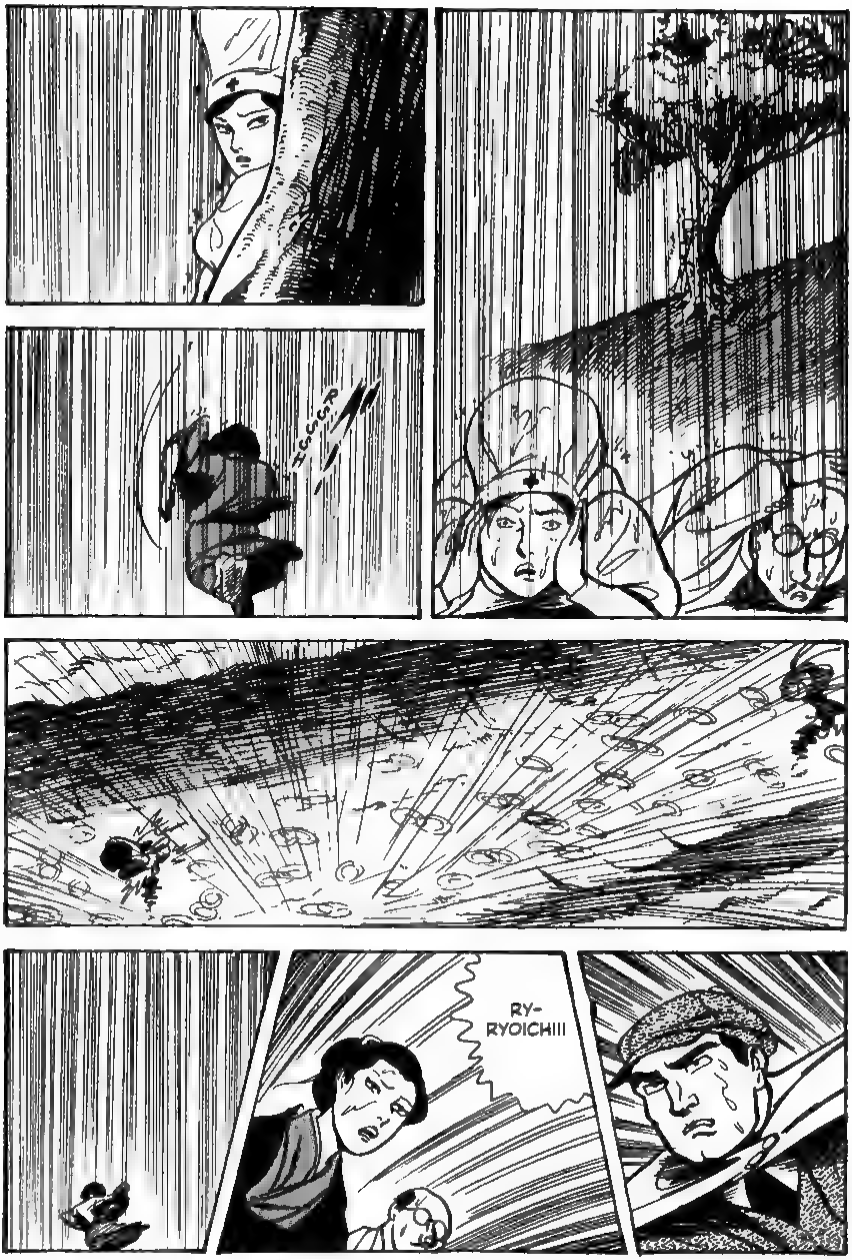

TH-
THUMP
SLAM
?!

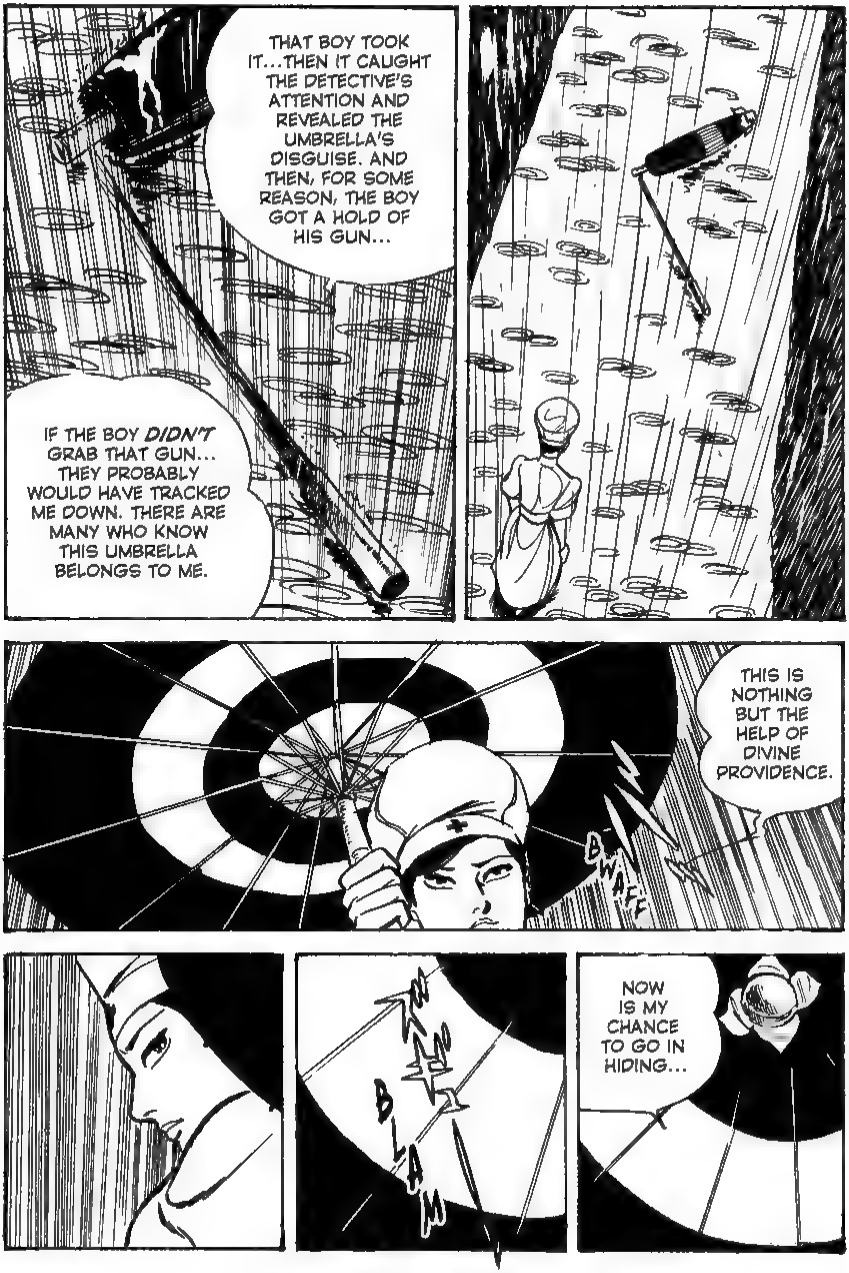
C'MON, BE GOOD.
K-KIDDO, IT'S NOT OKAY TO HOLD SOMETHING LIKE THAT. NOW, GIVE IT BACK TO ME.
BA-BOOM! IT'S BA-BOOM! YAAY!

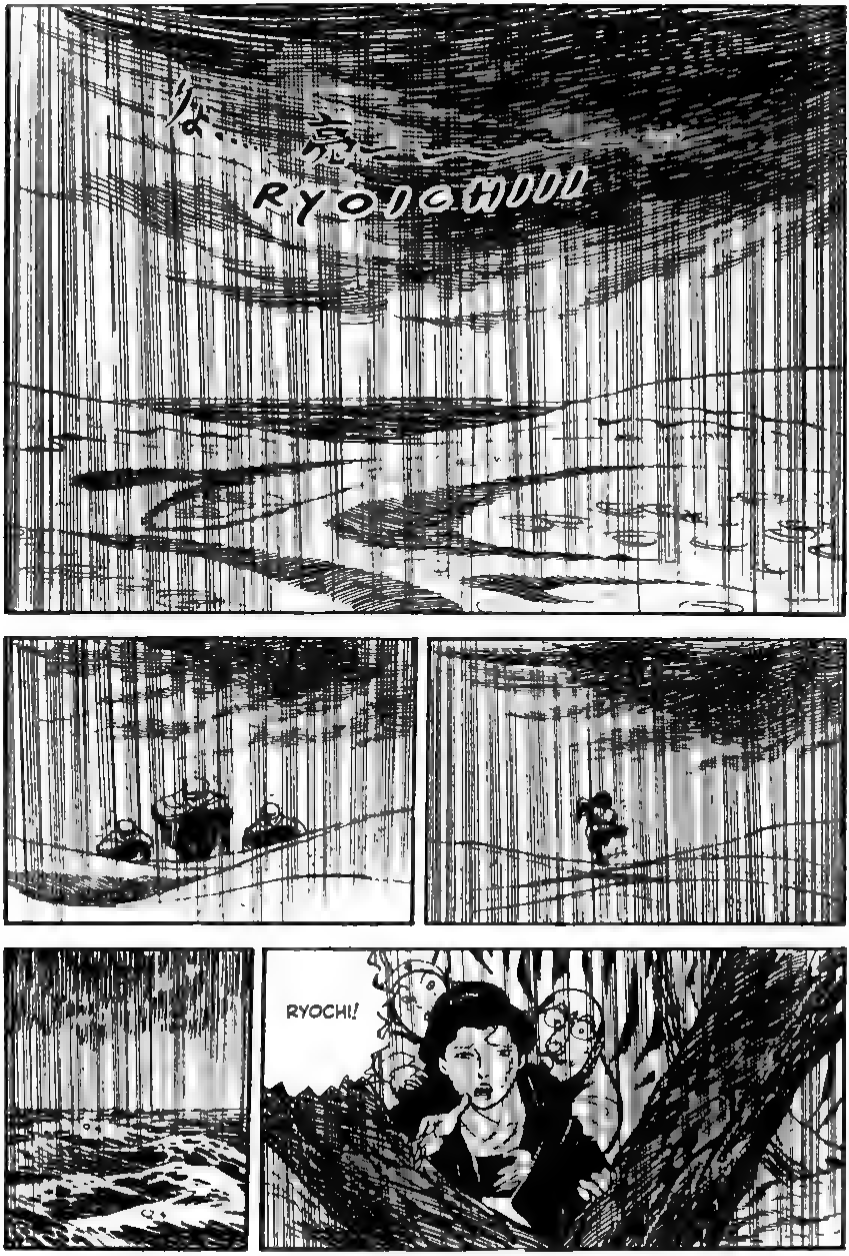
IT'S BA-BOOM!
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY. NOW, GIVE IT BACK.
A LOLLIPOP? AH, I GOT IT. WHAT ABOUT YUMMY RICE CRACKERS?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE...?
I'LL BUY YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT. JUST GIVE THAT BACK TO ME.
RY-RYOICHI!

BA-BOOM.
BA-BOOM.
BLAM
SPLOTCH

TH-
THUMP-
!
KIKK
BA-BOOM. BA-BOOM. BA-BOOM.
SPLOSHH
RYOICHI!

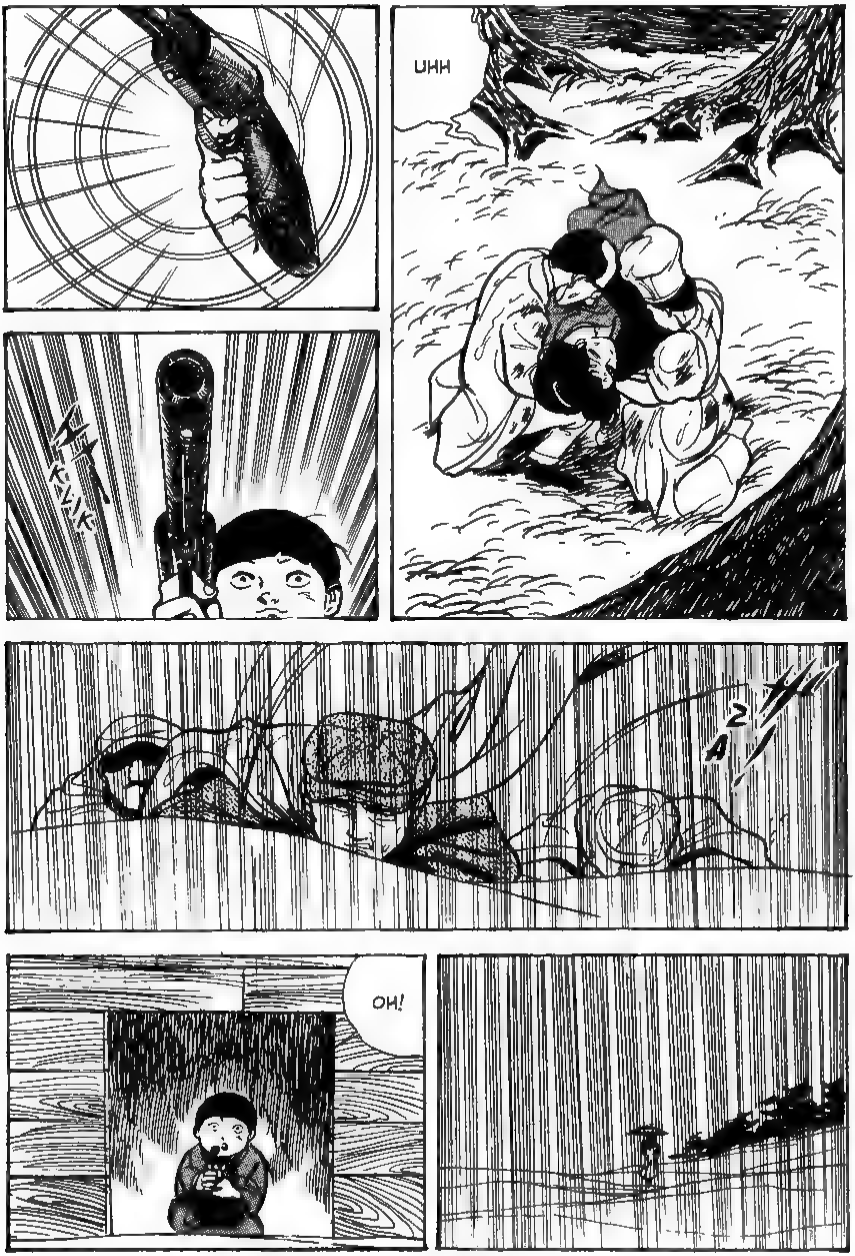

HGGGP!
RY-
RYOICHIII

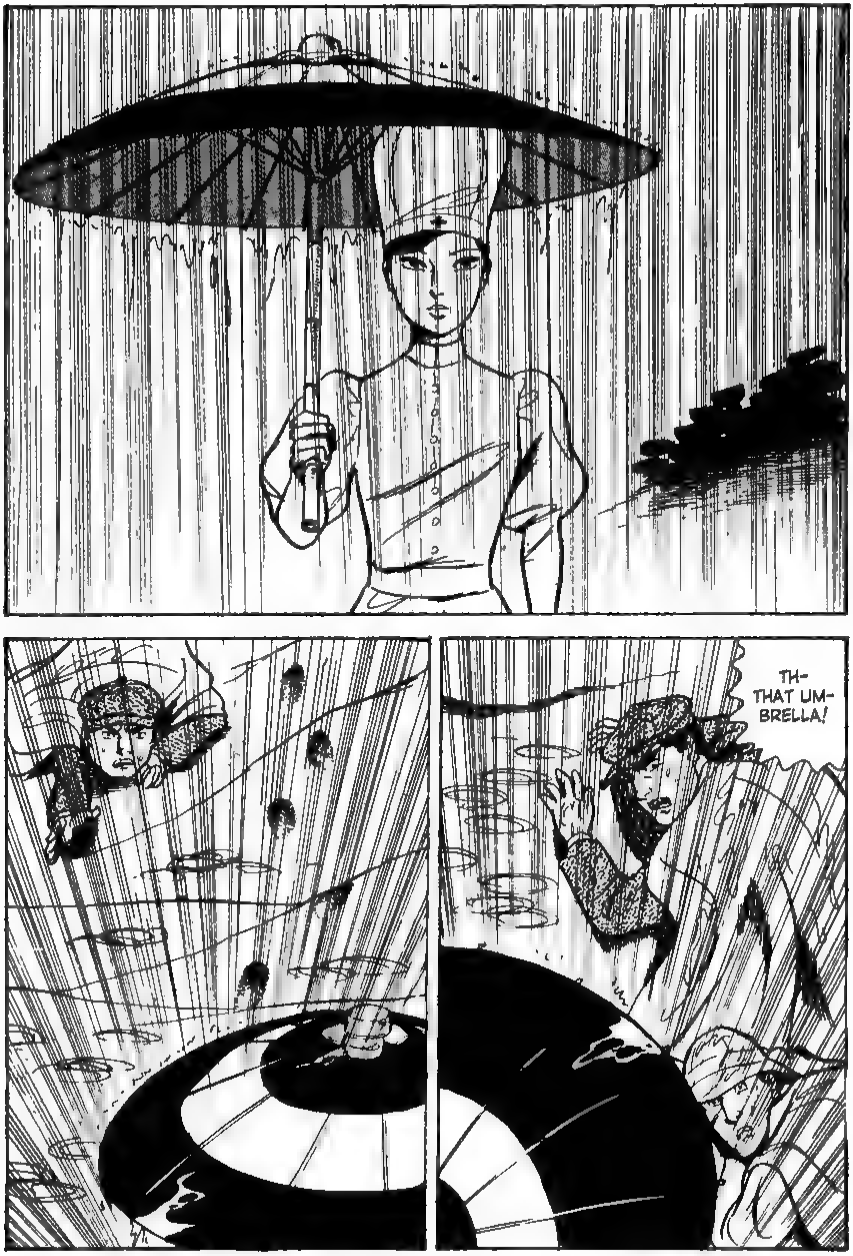

THAT BOY TOOK IT...THEN IT CAUGHT THE DETECTIVE'S ATTENTION AND REVEALED THE UMBRELLA'S DISGUISE. AND THEN, FOR SOME REASON, THE BOY GOT A HOLD OF HIS GUN...
IF THE BOY *DIDN'T* GRAB THAT GUN... THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TRACKED ME DOWN. THERE ARE MANY WHO KNOW THIS UMBRELLA BELONGS TO ME.
THIS IS NOTHING BUT THE HELP OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE.
BWAFF
KNN
BLAM
NOW IS MY CHANCE TO GO IN HIDING...


RYODAWOOD
RYOCHI!

IF I LEAVE NOW I'LL OWE MY ESCAPE TO THAT BOY. BUT WHO KNOWS WHEN I'LL DIE...AND I CAN'T LEAVE OWING SO MUCH TO SUCH A LITTLE BOY.
LE FOTIOU SIX SHOT REVOLVER. THREE MORE TO GO.
KURU

BA-BOOM.
BA-BOOM.
WEE!


UHH
OH!

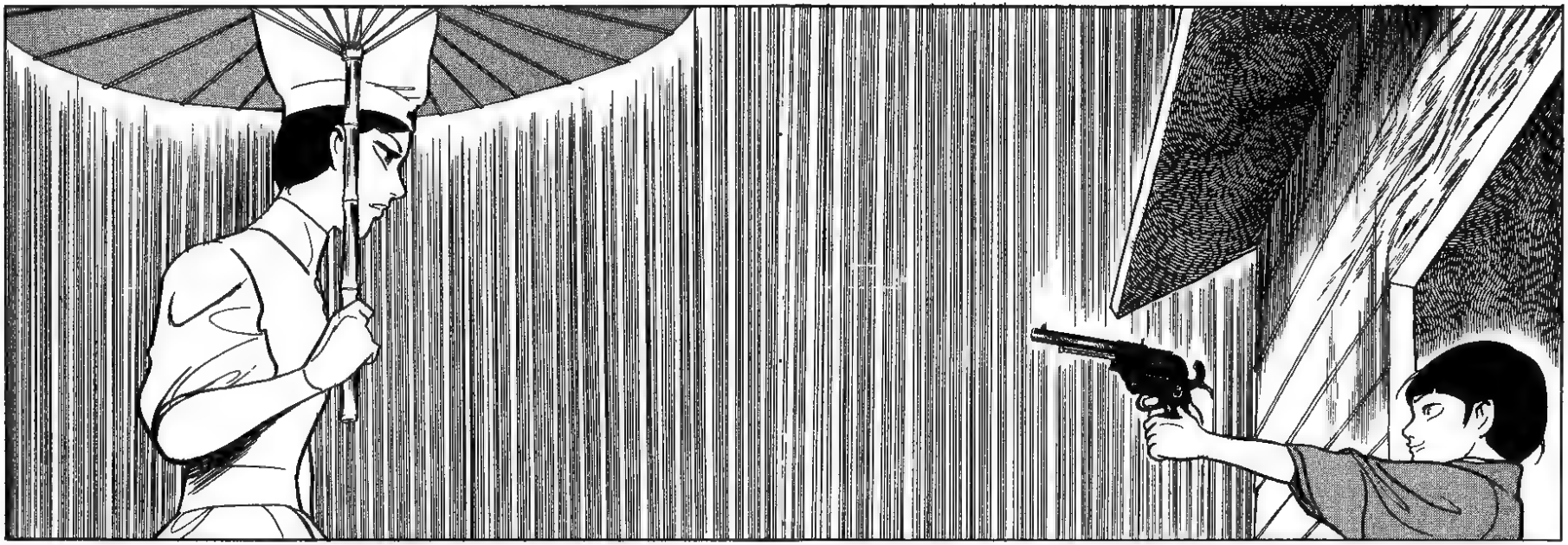

TH-
THAT UM-
BRELLA!

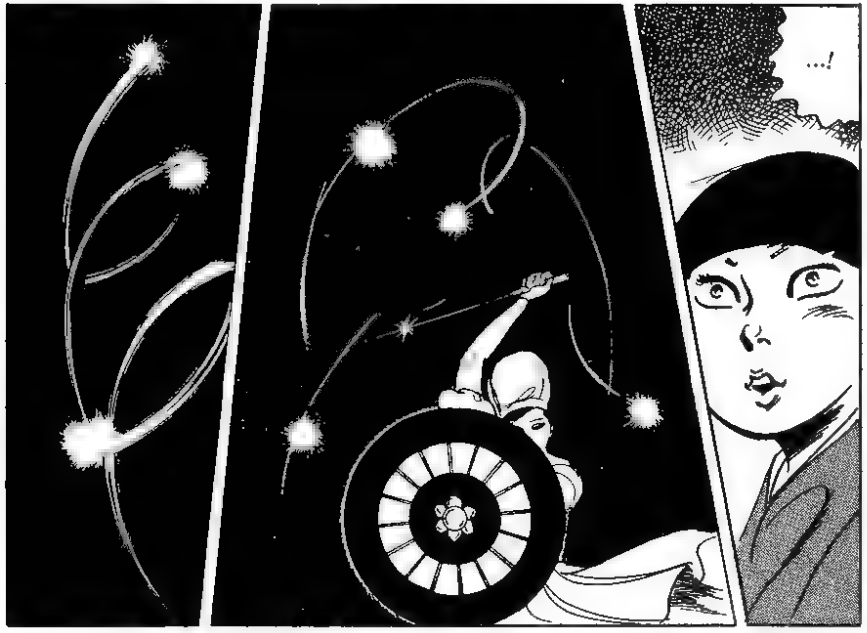
THE TWINKLE LADY!!
WSH
WSH
WSH
KLIK
WSH

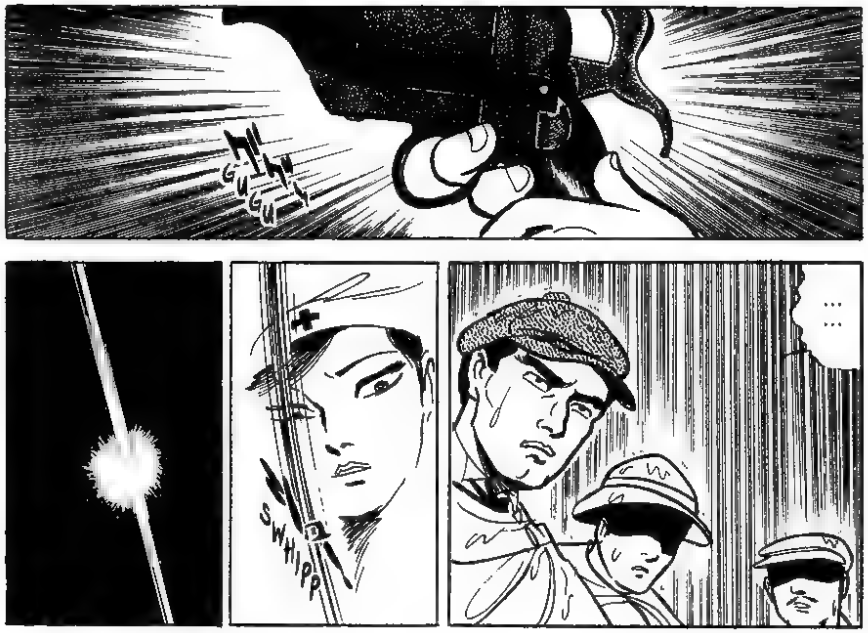
THIS ONE IS... BA-BOOM!
IS THAT SO...?
BA-BOOM!

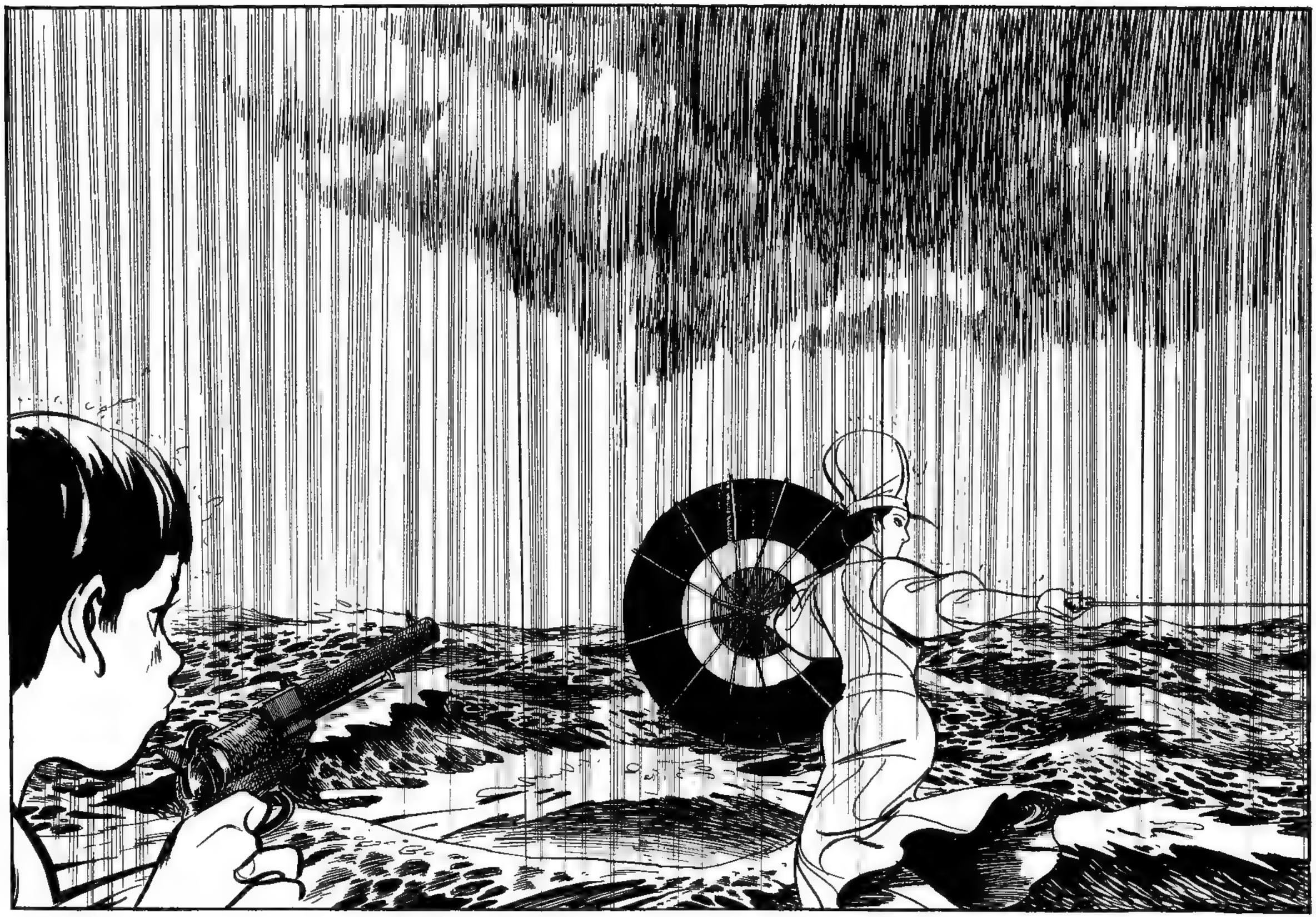
外題之十二
青春白衣（せいしゅんびゃくい）
涙断譜（るいだんのふ）二

EPISODE 12
BLOOM OF YOUTH,
WHITE UNIFORM
AND SONG OF
TEARS, PART 2




...!

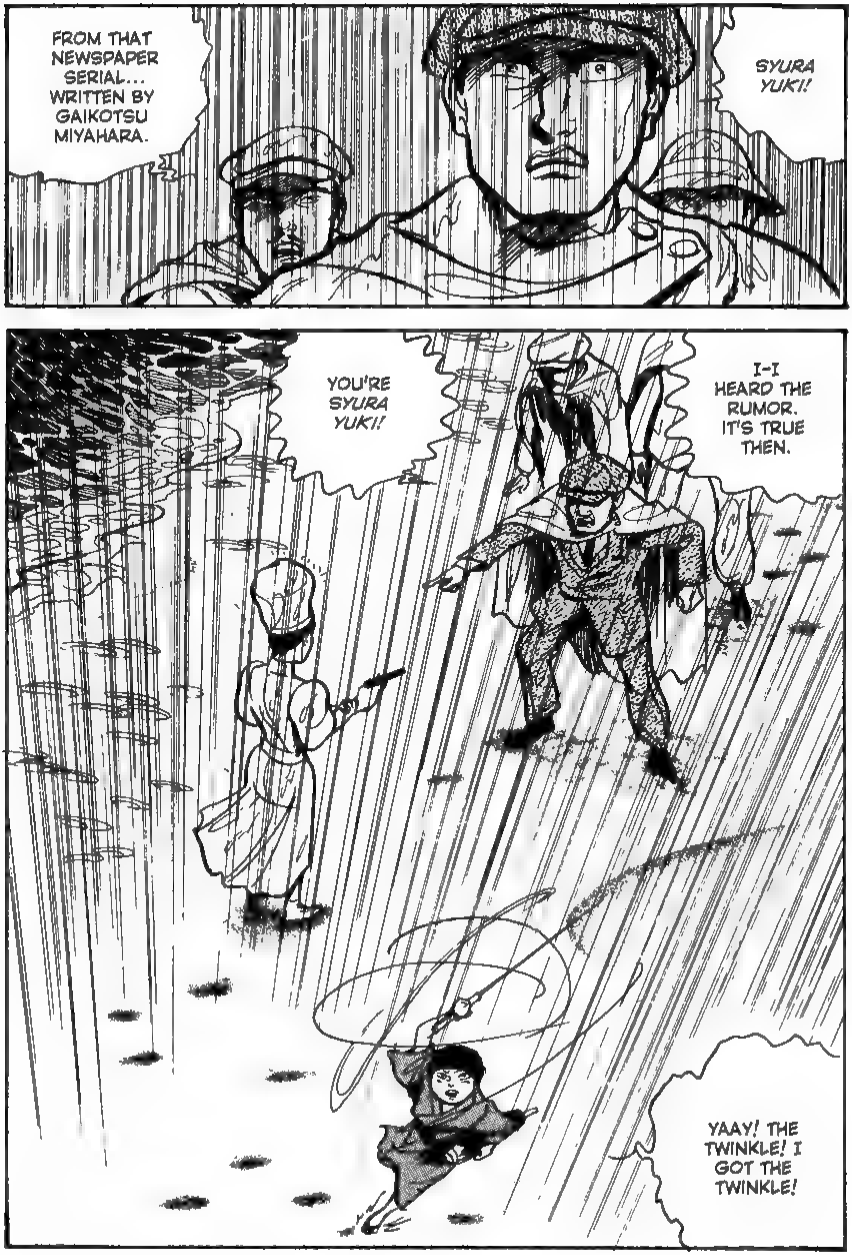

GUGU
SWHIPP
...
...



THE TWINKLE... THE TWINKLE...
GIMME THE TWINKLE... GIMME...

SHUFF
SHUFF
OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU THE BA-BOOM.
IF YOU GIVE ME THE BA-BOOM, I'LL GIVE YOU THE TWINKLE.
...!

UM...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
SYURA YUKI...

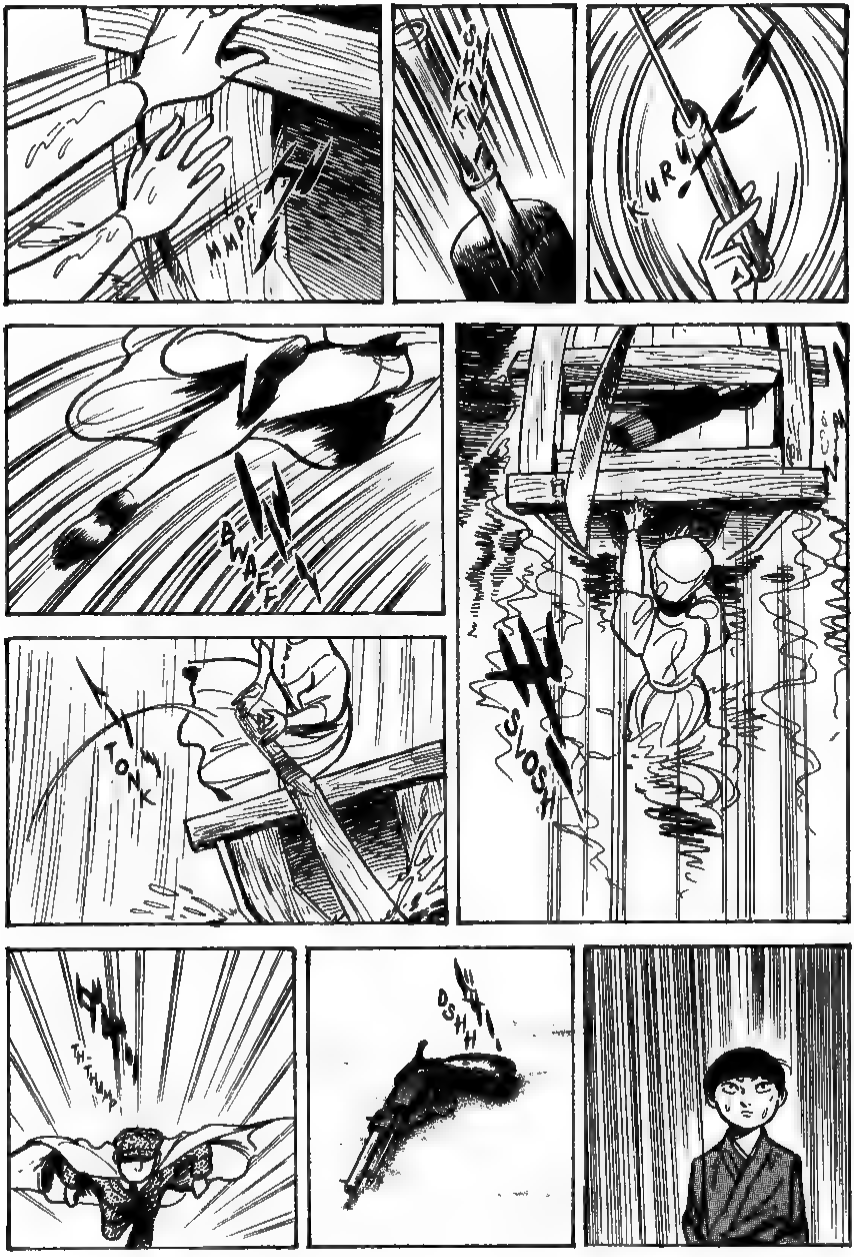

FROM THAT NEWSPAPER SERIAL... WRITTEN BY GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA.
SYURA YUKI!
YOU'RE SYURA YUKI!
I-I HEARD THE RUMOR. IT'S TRUE THEN.
YAAY! THE TWINKLE! I GOT THE TWINKLE!

RYOICHI.
YOU MUST BE THE ONE WHO KILLED MR. ITAKURA, THE LEADER OF KENSHIN PARTY!
GET A BOAT READY.
C-CRAP!
I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOUR IMAGI-NATION.
DO AS I SAY. OTHERWISE, YOU'RE DEAD.

SNIK
YUP.
HERE, THIS IS YOUR BA-BOOM, RIGHT?
KURURURU
OH!
I WILL GIVE THE BA-BOOM BACK TO YOU, AND YOU WILL GIVE THE TWINKLE BACK TO ME, OKAY?
YUP.
THE TWINKLE IS MINE, RIGHT?

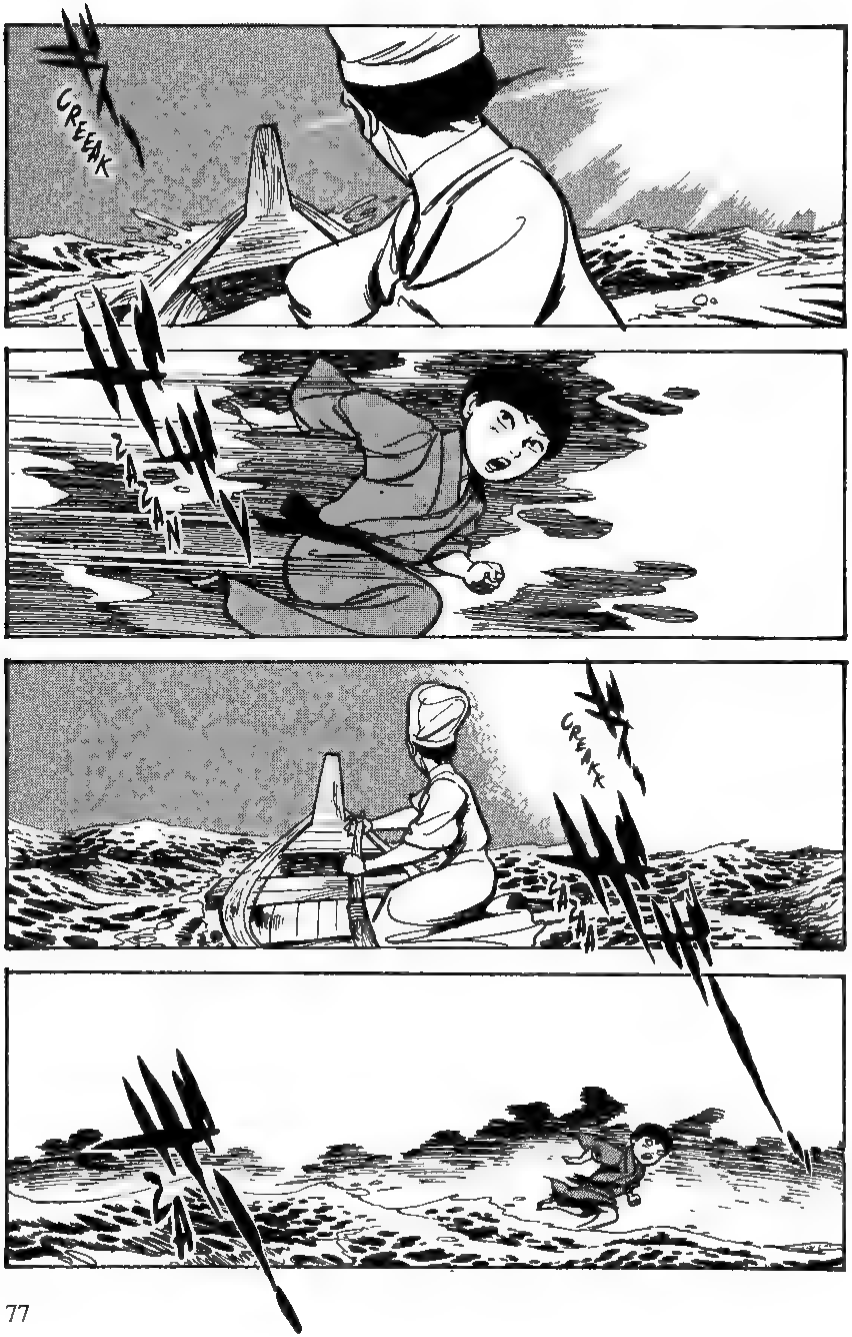
...
UH...
...

GOOD-
BYE,
KIDDO.
...
...


MMPF
SHKK
KURU
AWAFF
TONK
SLOSH
DSHH
EH-THUP!

SNIK
SNIK
TWINKLE LADY!!
K-BLAM
BAM
DAMN IT...

SYURA YUKI, I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS, EVEN IF I HAVE TO FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE WORLD.
TWINKLE LADY!!
TWINKLE LADY!!

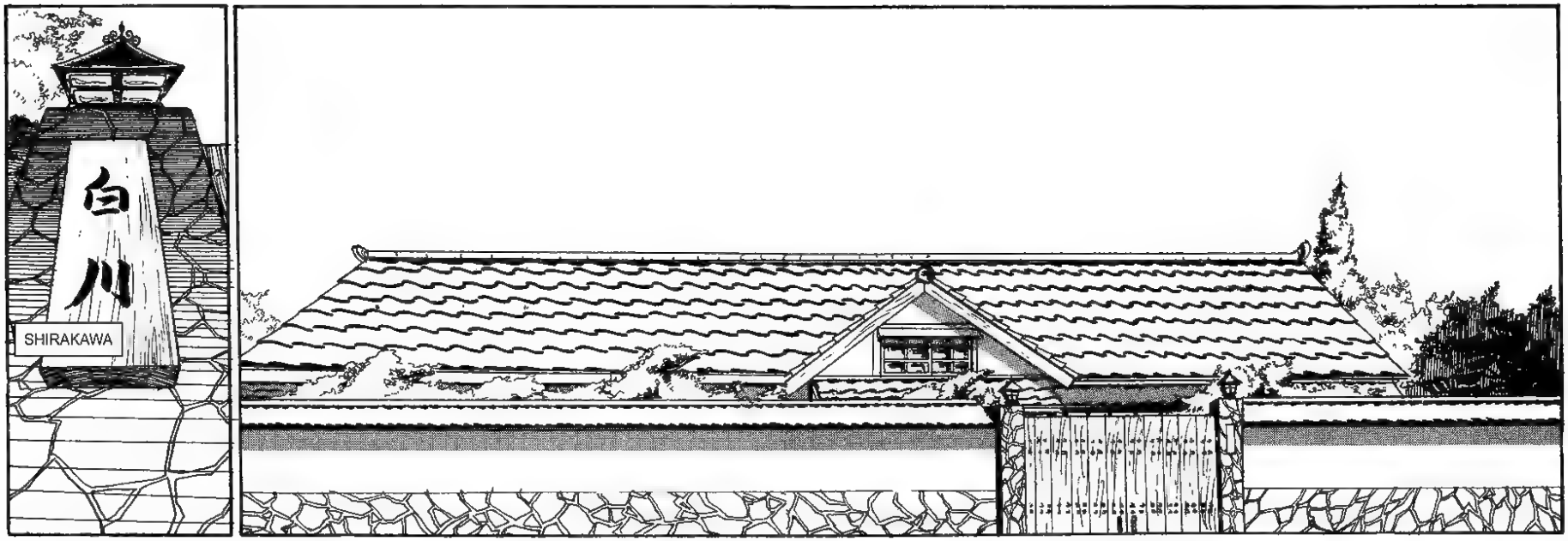

CREEAK
ZALAN
CRUNKK
ZAZAA
ZA

TO THE BOY,
WHAT WAS THE TWINKLE?
WHAT WAS BA-BOOM?
WAS IT A GROWNUP'S TOY?
WAS IT HIS?

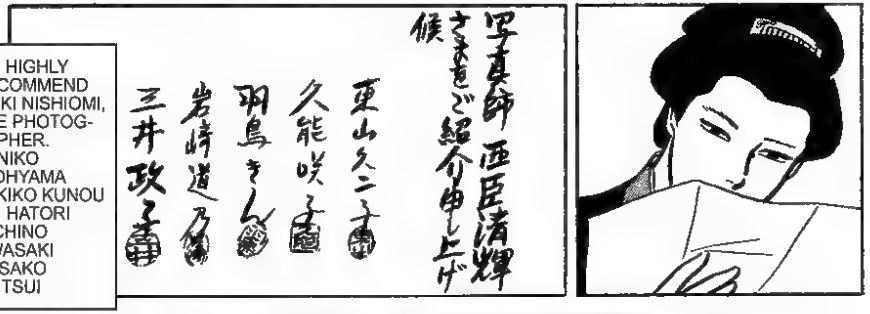
■ BLOOM OF YOUTH, WHITE UNIFORM AND SONG OF TEARS / THE END ■

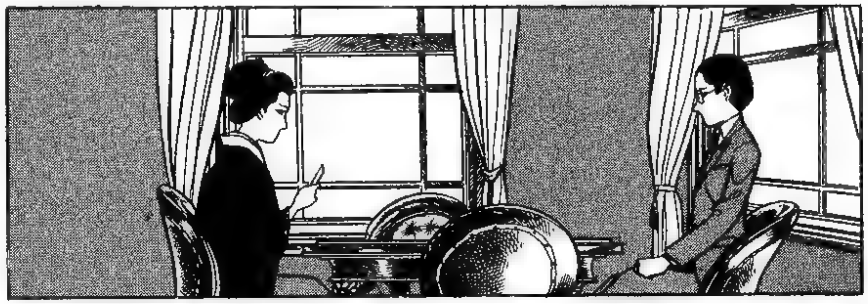
外題之十三 露骨写真組斬悔 一

EPISODE 13
INDECENT
PHOTOGRAPHER'S
CONFESSION,
PART 1



WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND SEIKI NISHIOMI, THE PHOTOGRAPHER.
KUNIKO TOHYAMA
SAKIKO KUNOU
KIN HATORI
MICHINO IWASAKI
MASAKO MITSUI

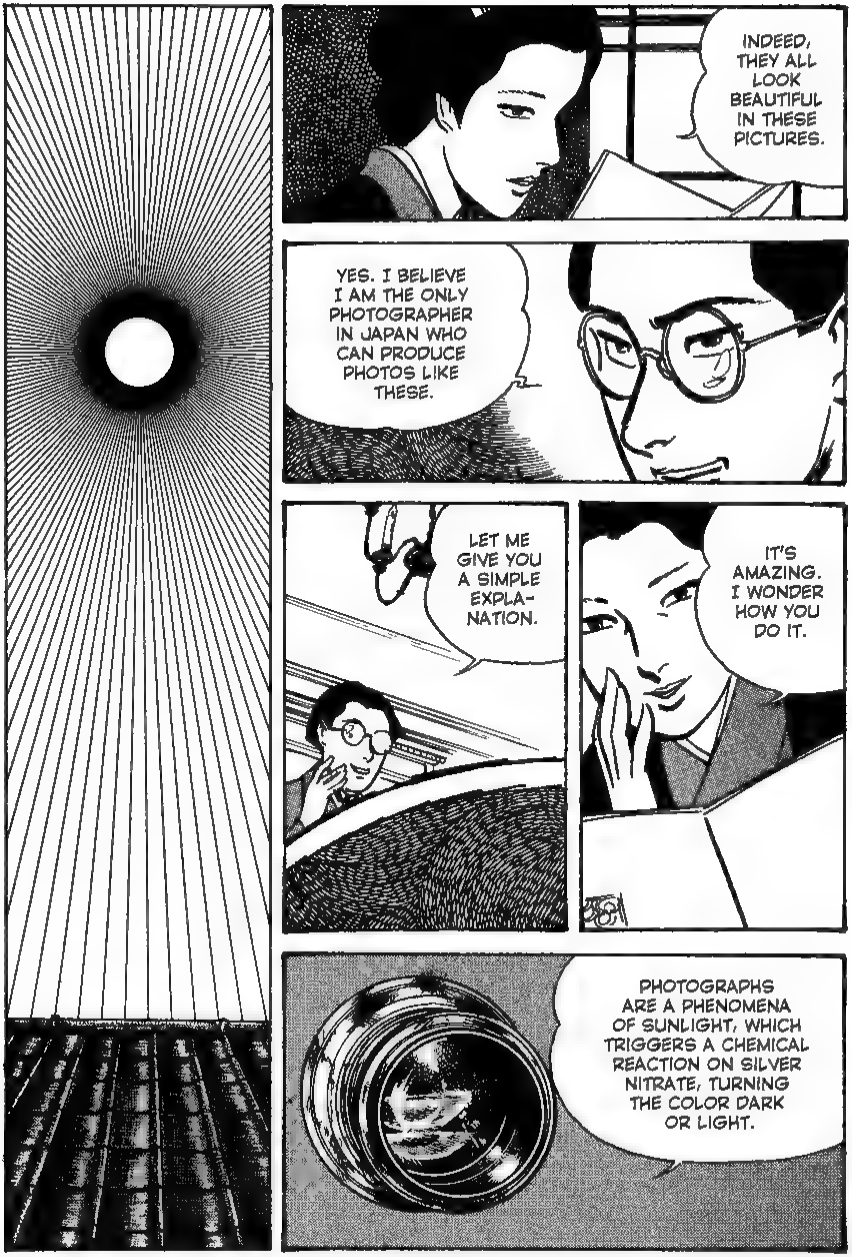




写真師
西臣清輝
東京市神田区松永町

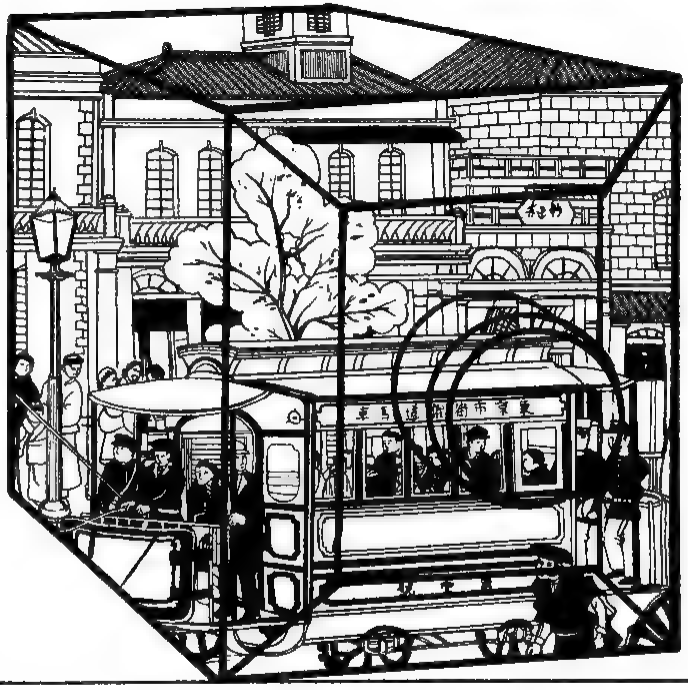
PHOTOGRAPHER
SEIKI NISHIOMI
MATSUNAGA-CHO,
KANDA-KU, TOKYO

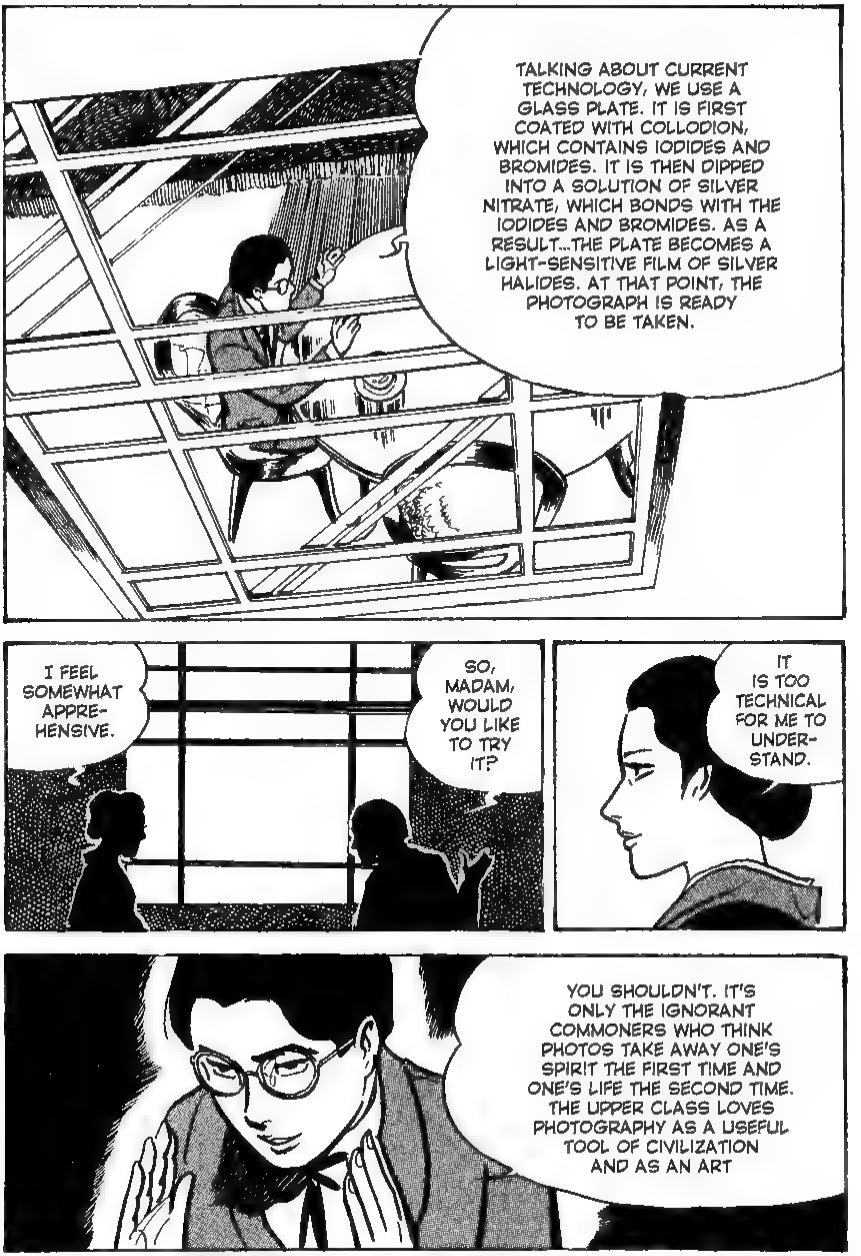
IMAGES CAN BE REPRODUCED AS CLEARLY AS *THESE*?
IT'S UP TO THE ABILITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER. WITH MY SKILL, WHICH I POLISHED IN EUROPE, YOUR BEAUTY TODAY CAN BE CAPTURED AND KEPT INTACT FOREVER.
I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU KEEP A LEAF OF YOUR PHOTOGRAPH THAT'LL HELP YOU REMINISCE YOUR DAYS OF BEAUTY AFTER YOU GROW OLD.


INDEED, THEY ALL LOOK BEAUTIFUL IN THESE PICTURES.
YES. I BELIEVE I AM THE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHER IN JAPAN WHO CAN PRODUCE PHOTOS LIKE THESE.
LET ME GIVE YOU A SIMPLE EXPLA-NATION.
IT'S AMAZING. I WONDER HOW YOU DO IT.
PHOTOGRAPHS ARE A PHENOMENA OF SUNLIGHT, WHICH TRIGGERS A CHEMICAL REACTION ON SILVER NITRATE, TURNING THE COLOR DARK OR LIGHT.

"THEN AFTER MANY YEARS OF EXPERIMENTS, AROUND 1830, A FRENCHMAN NAMED DAGUERRE SUCCEEDED IN REPRODUCING A DETAILED AND VIVID IMAGE ON SILVER PLATED COPPER. AND AFTER THAT, MR. TALBOT, AN ENGLISHMAN, SUCCEEDED IN INVENTING A METHOD TO REPRODUCE AN IMAGE ON PAPER. SINCE THEN, A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AS PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY SPREAD THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND AMERICA."

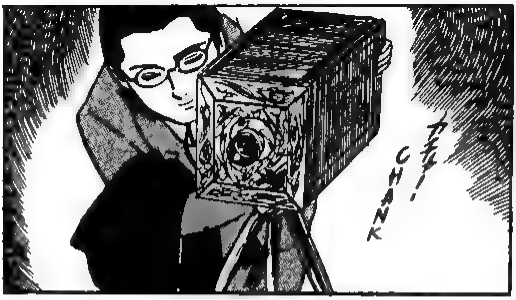
"IT IS KNOWN TO BE INVENTED BY A GERMAN NAMED CARL SCHEELE, AROUND 1777. HE PAINTED CHLORINATED SILVER ON A GRASS JAR, WRAPPED IT IN A PIECE OF PAPER WITH SOME LETTERS CUT OUT, AND PLACED IT IN THE SUNLIGHT. THE SPOTS THAT WERE EXPOSED TO SUNLIGHT TURNED BLACK AND THE AREA COVERED BY THE PAPER REMAINED UNCHANGED. THAT'S HOW HE OBTAINED A CLEAR IMAGE



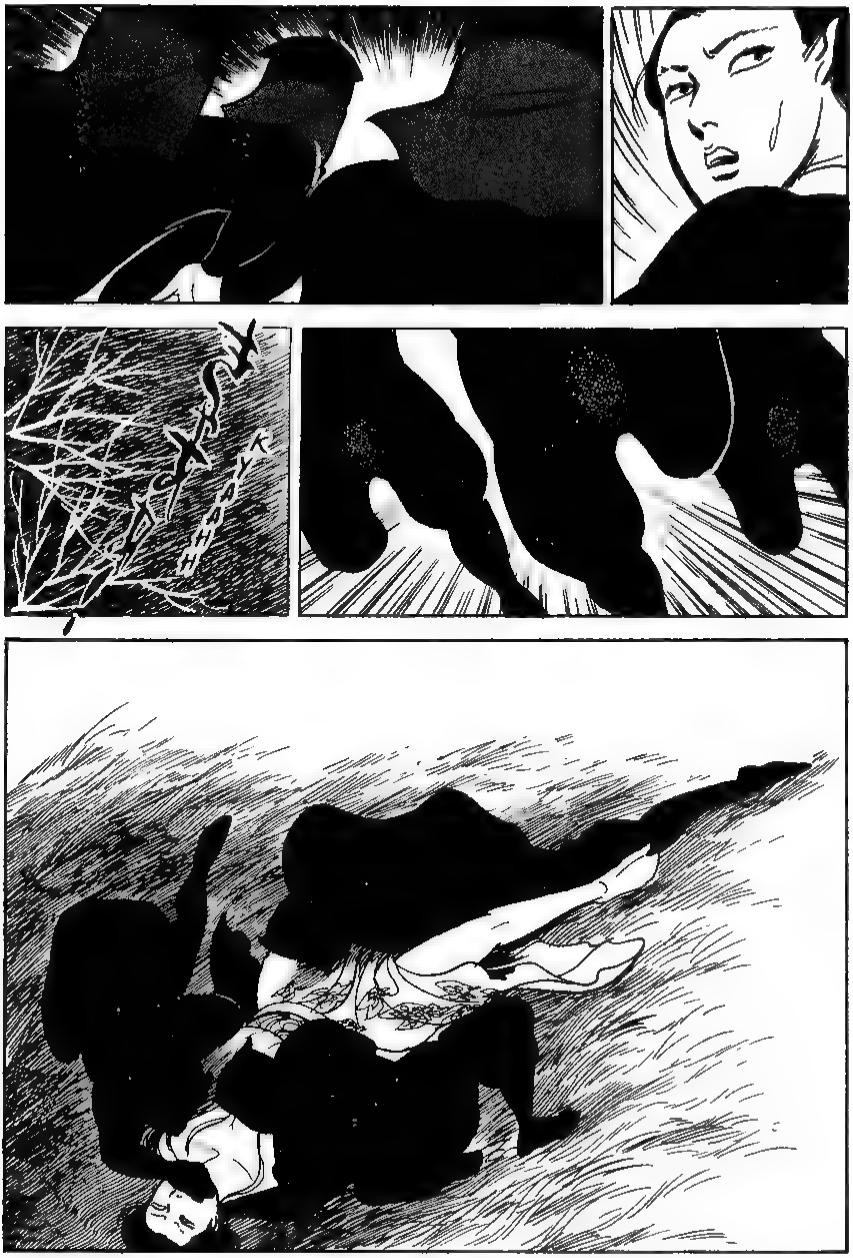

TALKING ABOUT CURRENT TECHNOLOGY, WE USE A GLASS PLATE. IT IS FIRST COATED WITH COLLODION, WHICH CONTAINS IODIDES AND BROMIDES. IT IS THEN DIPPED INTO A SOLUTION OF SILVER NITRATE, WHICH BONDS WITH THE IODIDES AND BROMIDES. AS A RESULT...THE PLATE BECOMES A LIGHT-SENSITIVE FILM OF SILVER HALIDES. AT THAT POINT, THE PHOTOGRAPH IS READY TO BE TAKEN.
I FEEL SOMEWHAT APPRE-HENSIVE.
SO, MADAM, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY IT?
IT IS TOO TECHNICAL FOR ME TO UNDER-STAND.
YOU SHOULDN'T. IT'S ONLY THE IGNORANT COMMONERS WHO THINK PHOTOS TAKE AWAY ONE'S SPIRIT THE FIRST TIME AND ONE'S LIFE THE SECOND TIME. THE UPPER CLASS LOVES PHOTOGRAPHY AS A USEFUL TOOL OF CIVILIZATION AND AS AN ART

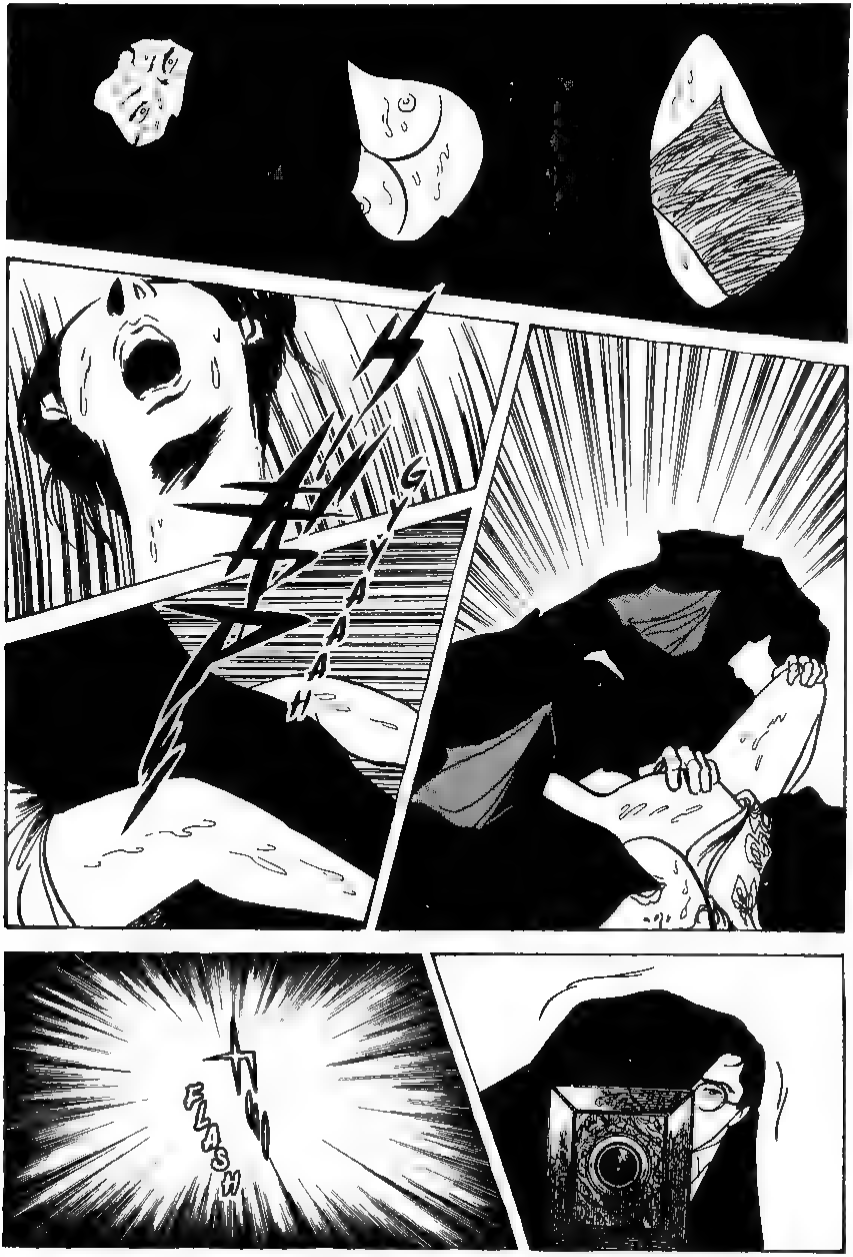
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO LOOK TOWARD A SQUARE BOX ON A TRIPOD CALLED CAMERA OBSCURA. WE MAY BURN FLASHBULBS WITH LYCOPODIUM POWDER, BUT IT'S JUST AN INSTANT BURST OF LIGHT. IT WON'T HARM YOUR HEALTH.
I'LL GO AND CHANGE.
I'M HAPPY TO WAIT.
VERY WELL THEN. I'LL TRY IT.
THANK YOU, MADAM.

A NOBLE WOMAN, TAKING A STROLL IN THE WOODS LATE AUTUMN. I THINK THE IMAGE WILL SUIT YOU WELL.
BY THE WAY, IT'S UNUSUALLY BEAUTIFUL WEATHER TODAY. HOW ABOUT TAKING YOUR PHOTO OUTDOORS?
OF COURSE WE CAN. I'LL SET UP MY CAMERA IN THE WOODS OF HOUSEIJI TEMPLE NEARBY AND WAIT FOR YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CAN TAKE PICTURES OUTSIDE.


アレ！
CHANK

...AND...
THIS IS THE CAMERA OBSCURA. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO STAND OVER THERE...
...GET NAKED.
WHAT?
TH-THUMP



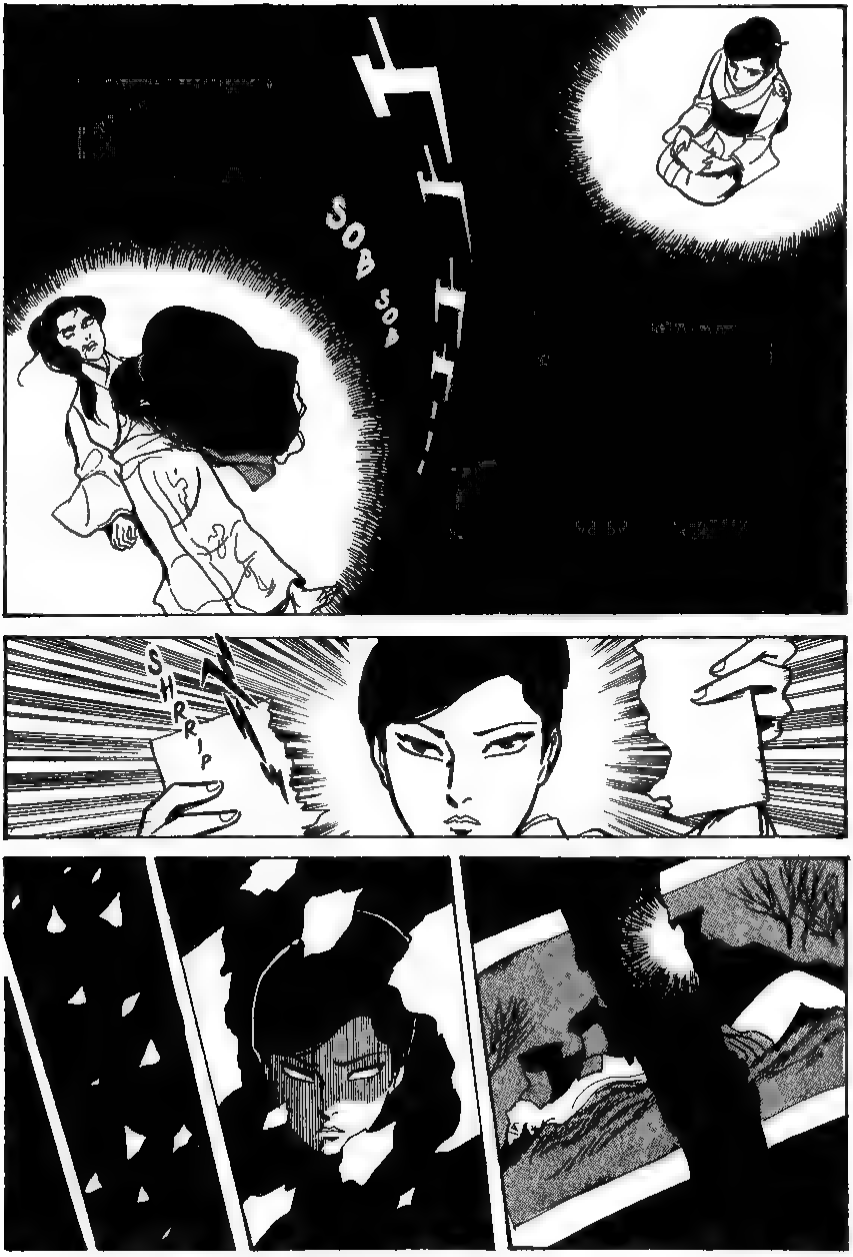

AAAAH
FLASH

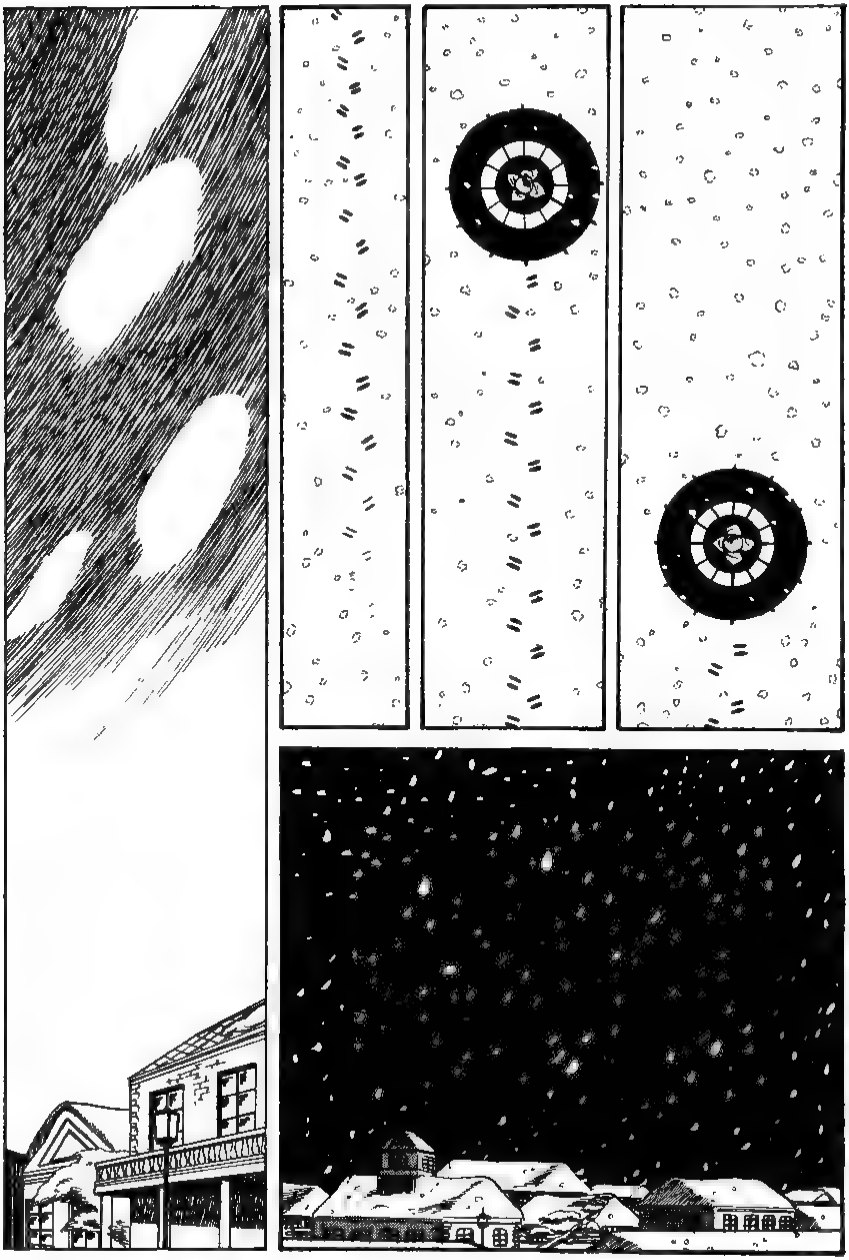
WHOOOF

...INTACT THE WAY SHE WAS *FOUND* FOR FIVE DAYS.
I'M-I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW IRATE I AM AND HOW MUCH MY WIFE SUFFERED. I LEFT HER BODY...
THEY...THEY *BLACKMAILED* MY WIFE WITH THAT PHOTO... FOR TWO MONTHS!

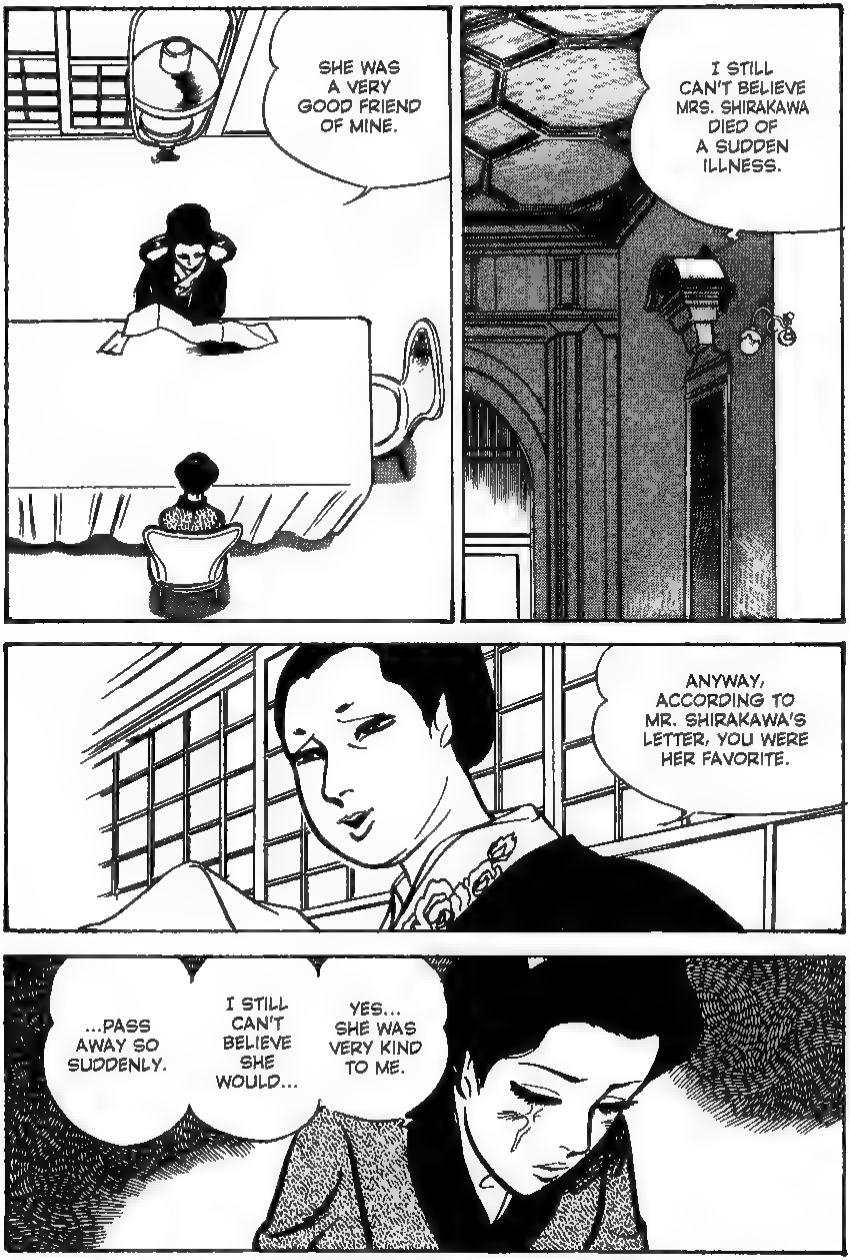
I WILL NEVER, EVER, FORGIVE SEIKI NISHIOMI, THE PHOTOGRAPHER! RIPPING THAT BASTARD TO PIECES WON'T EVEN ALLAY MY ANGER.
A USEFUL TOOL OF CIVILIZATION CAN TRANSFORM INTO A *WEAPON* DEPENDING ON WHO USES IT. THE MAN WHO TOOK THIS PICTURE DROVE MY WIFE TO HER DEATH.
HE'S CUNNING. HE APPROACHES ONLY UPPER CLASS LADIES. ACCORDING TO THE DEATH NOTE LEFT BY MY WIFE, NOT ONLY MRS. TOHYAMA BUT ALSO MRS. IWASAKI AND MRS. MITSUI RECOMMENDED HIM. THAT'S WHAT REASSURED HER. AND THAT MEANS THESE LADIES ARE ALSO ENSNARED IN HIS POISONOUS FANGS.

...
I'M SURE HE KNEW THEIR HUSBANDS WOULD HUSH THE MATTER THE BEST THEY COULD, SINCE IT MEANT FAMILY EMBARRASSMENT. THAT'S WHAT HE PREYS UPON. EVEN I CANNOT BRING THIS TO PUBLIC ATTENTION. THAT'S WHY I'M SEEKING YOUR HELP.
P-PLEASE TAKE MY REVENGE. PLEASE KILL THE BASTARD AND THRUST HIM DOWN TO THE EIGHT GREAT HELLS!

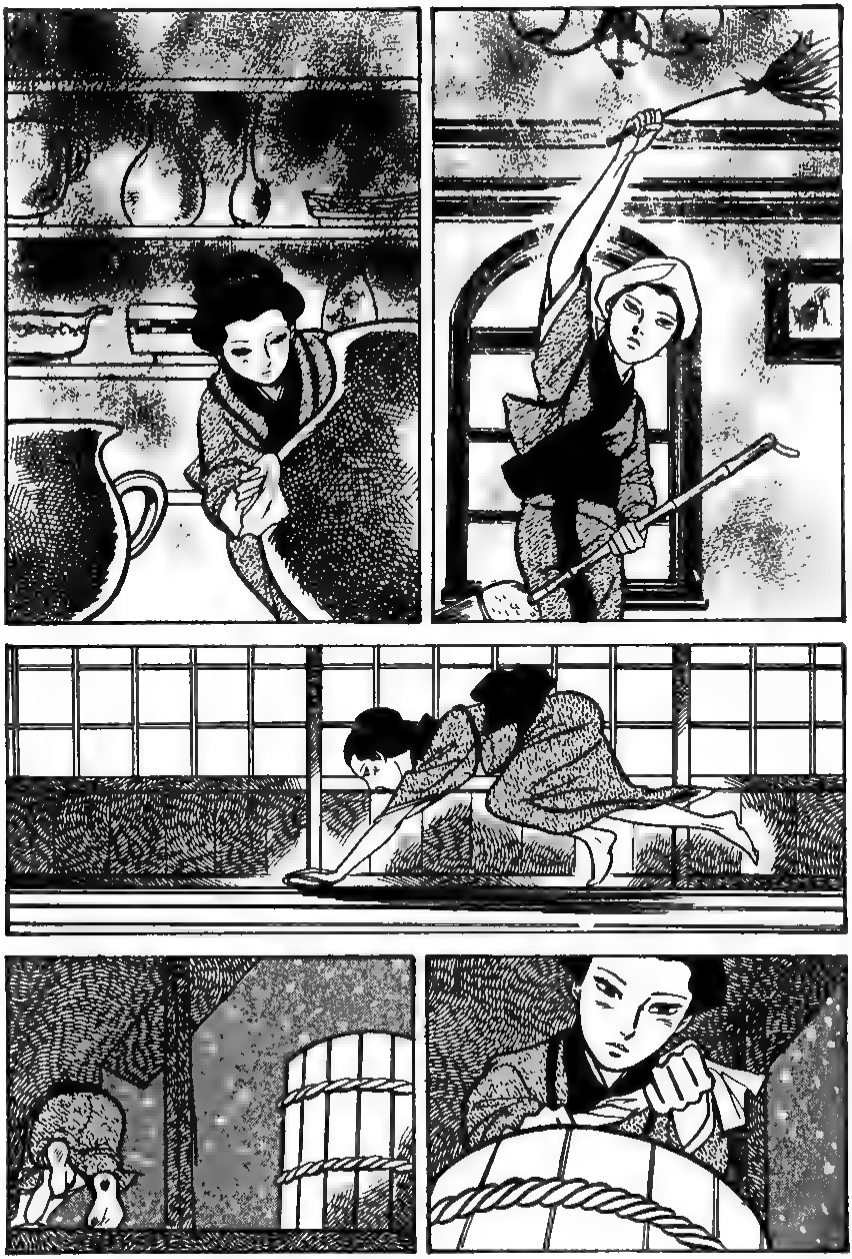

SOB SOB
SHRRIP



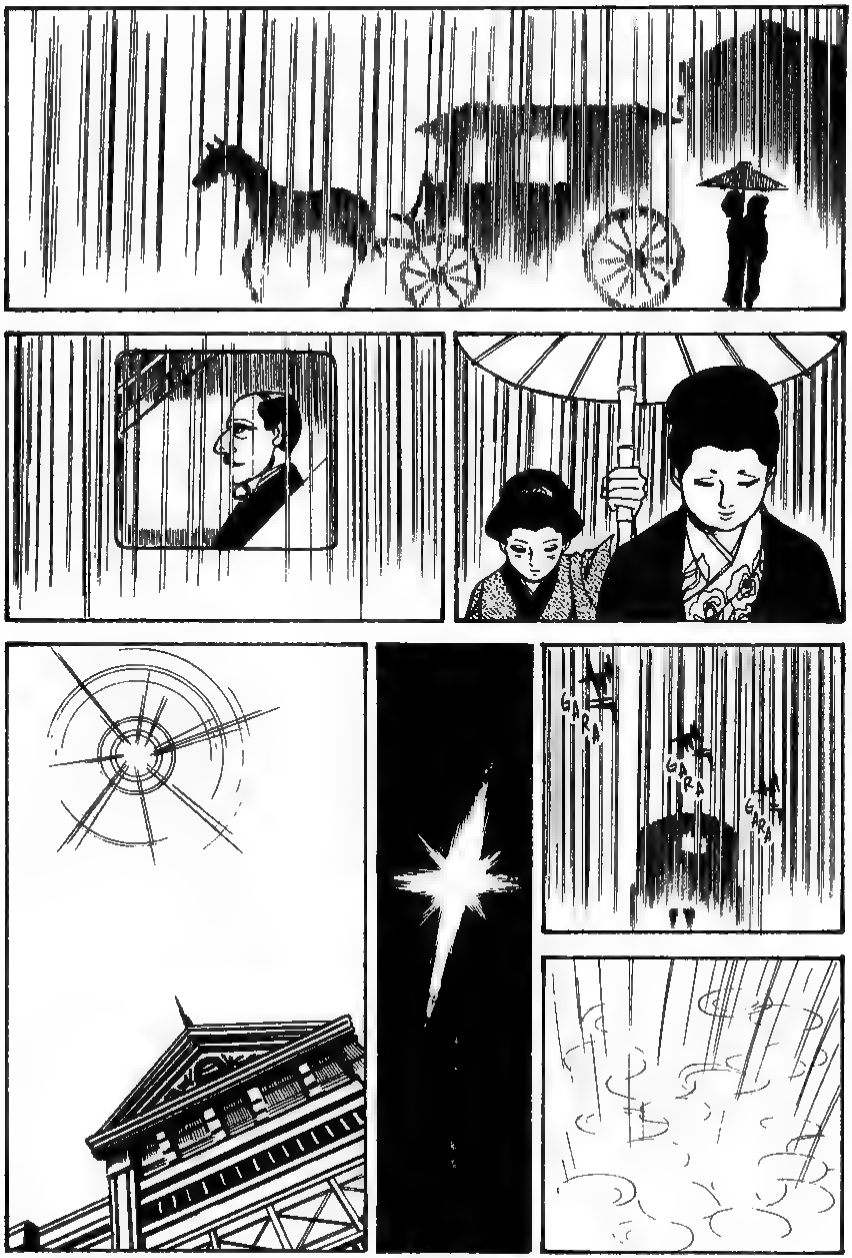
黒田
KURODA

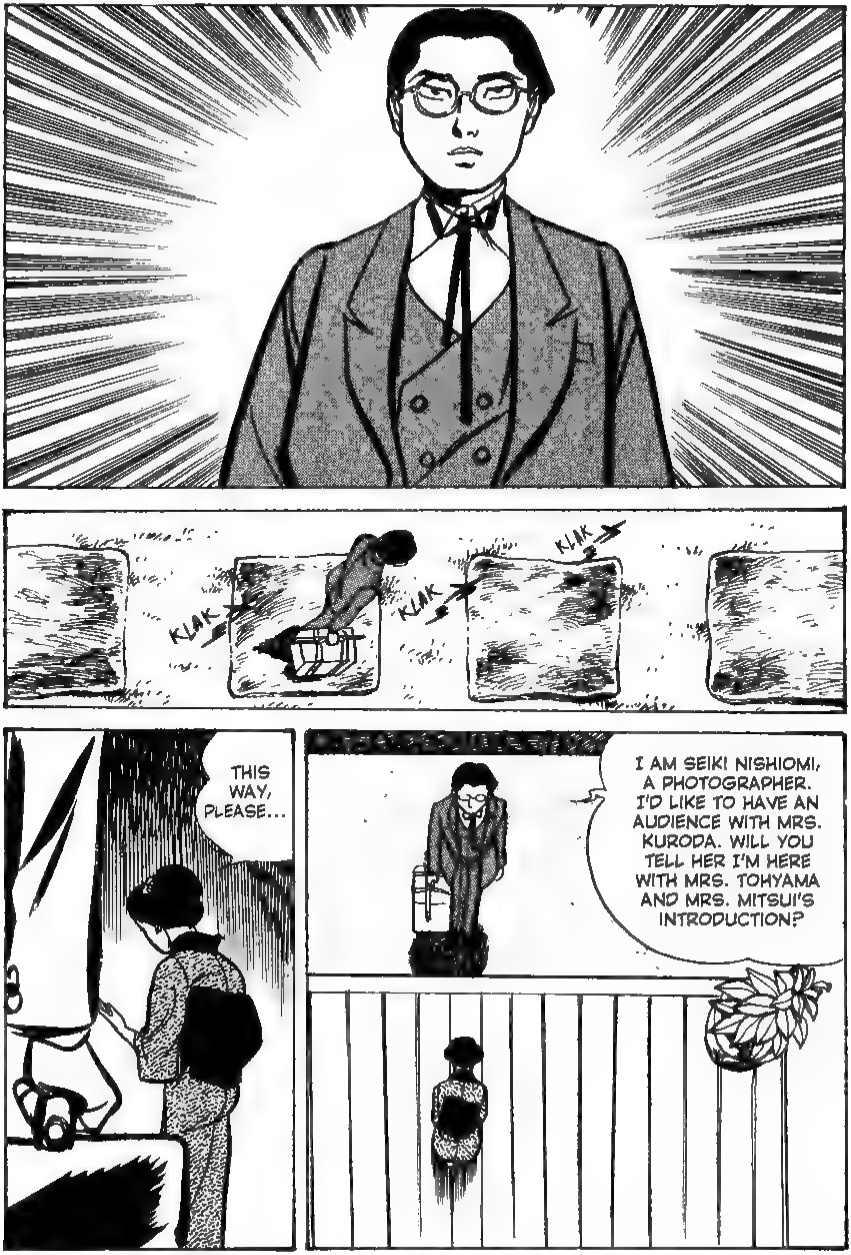

SHE WAS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE MRS. SHIRAKAWA DIED OF A SUDDEN ILLNESS.
ANYWAY, ACCORDING TO MR. SHIRAKAWA'S LETTER, YOU WERE HER FAVORITE.
...PASS AWAY SO SUDDENLY.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WOULD...
YES... SHE WAS VERY KIND TO ME.

YES, I AM YUKI KASHIMA.
AND YOUR NAME IS OYUKI, RIGHT?
YES.
NONE OTHER THAN MR. SHIRAKAWA RECOMMENDED YOU, AND YOU'RE WITH US NOW. PLEASE PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND SERVE US WELL.

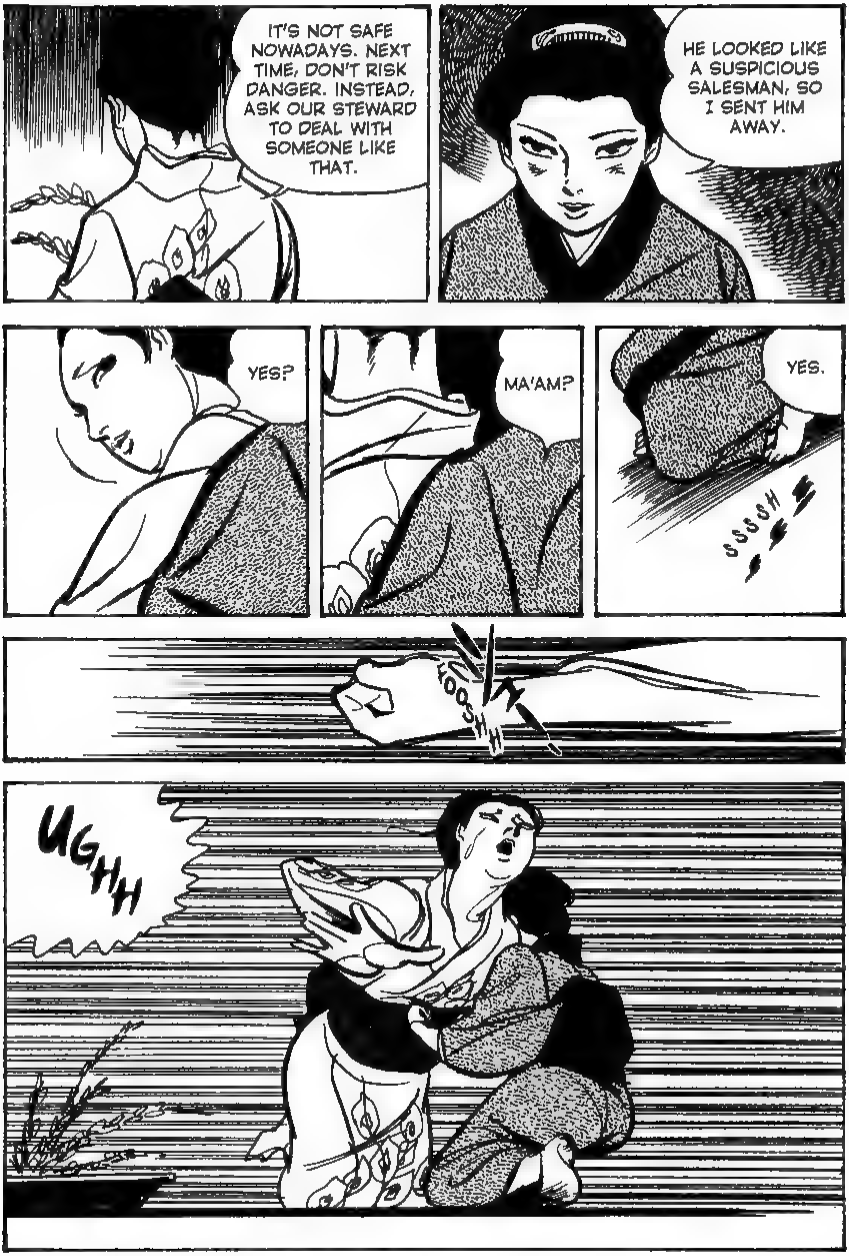


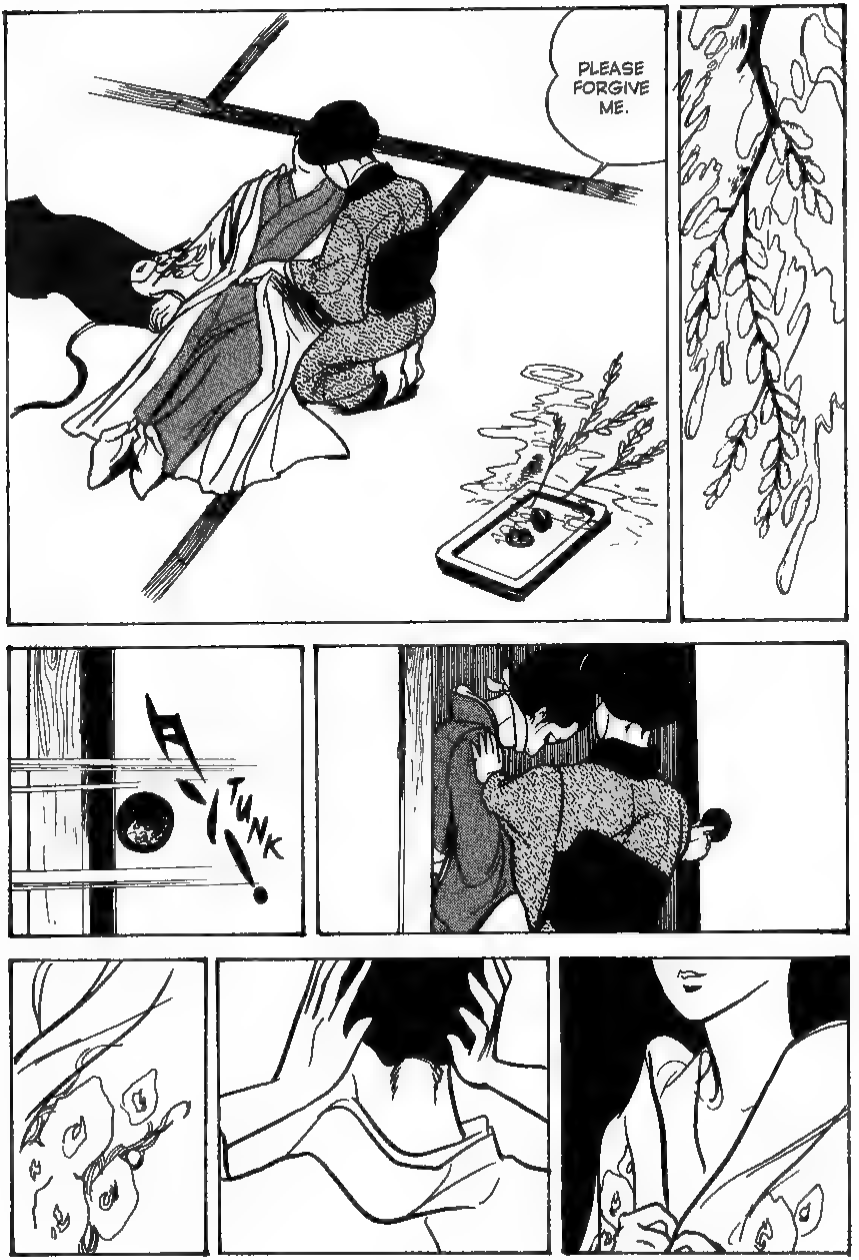
FLUP
FLUP
FLUP


GARA
GARA
GARA


KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
THIS WAY, PLEASE...
I AM SEIKI NISHIOMI, A PHOTOGRAPHER. I'D LIKE TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH MRS. KURODA. WILL YOU TELL HER I'M HERE WITH MRS. TOHYAMA AND MRS. MITSUI'S INTRODUCTION?

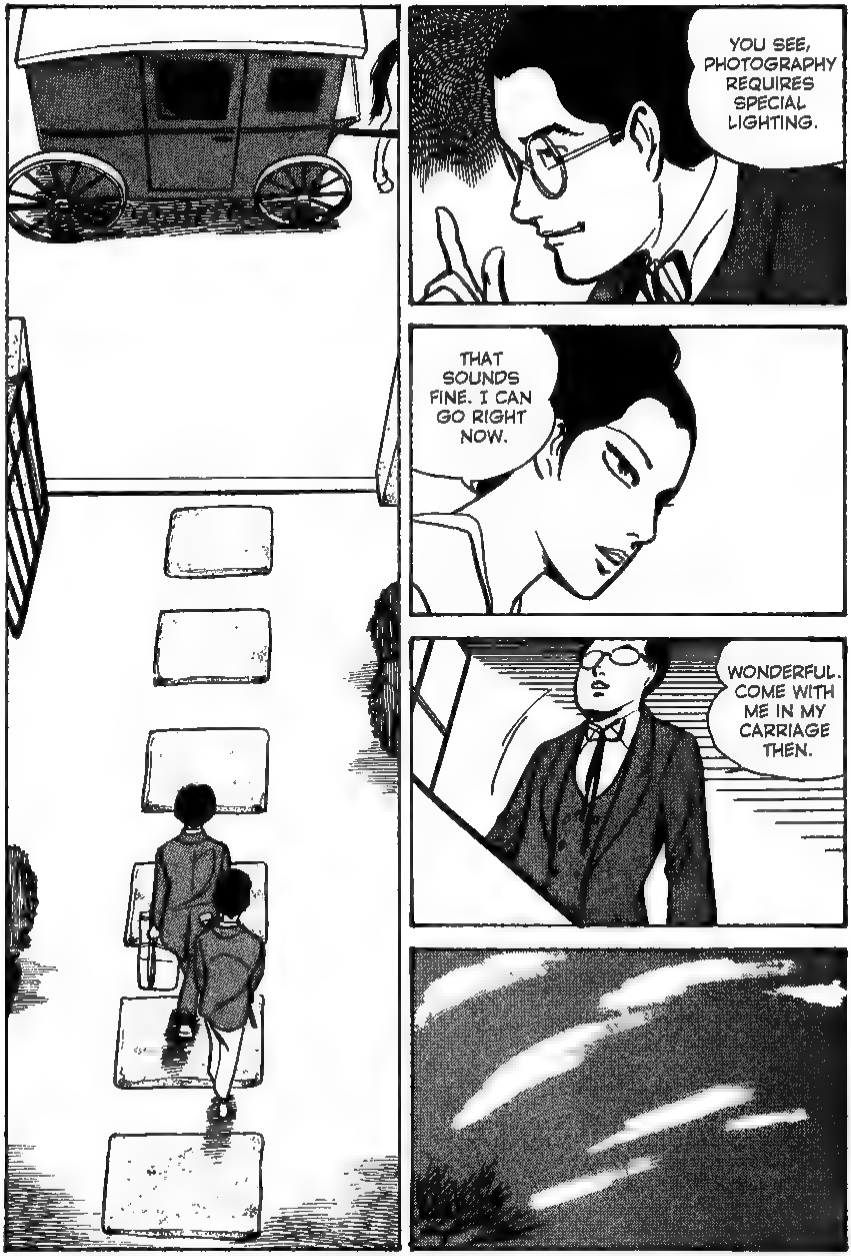
JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE.
IS THERE A VISITOR?
MA'AM?

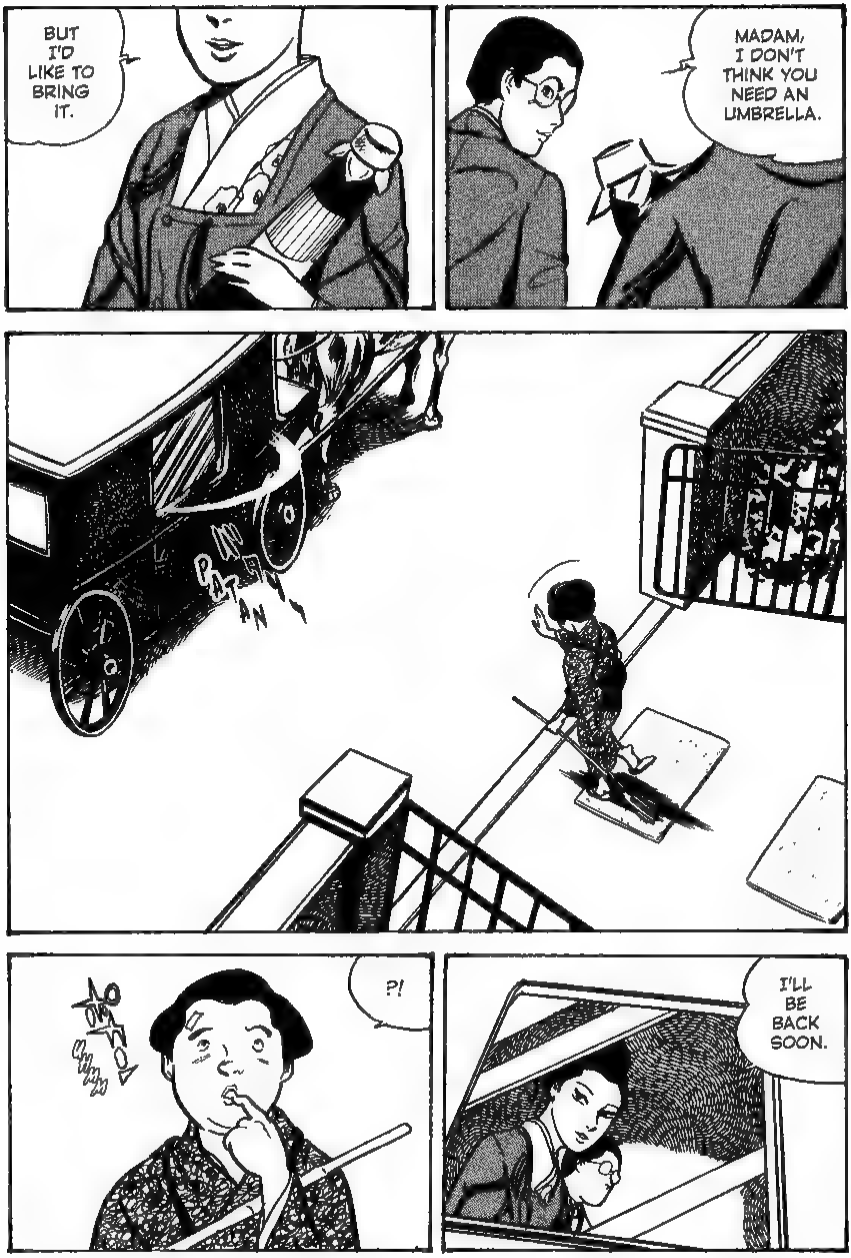

IT'S NOT SAFE NOWADAYS. NEXT TIME, DON'T RISK DANGER. INSTEAD, ASK OUR STEWARD TO DEAL WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
HE LOOKED LIKE A SUSPICIOUS SALESMAN, SO I SENT HIM AWAY.
YES?
MA'AM?
YES.
SSSSH
UGHH

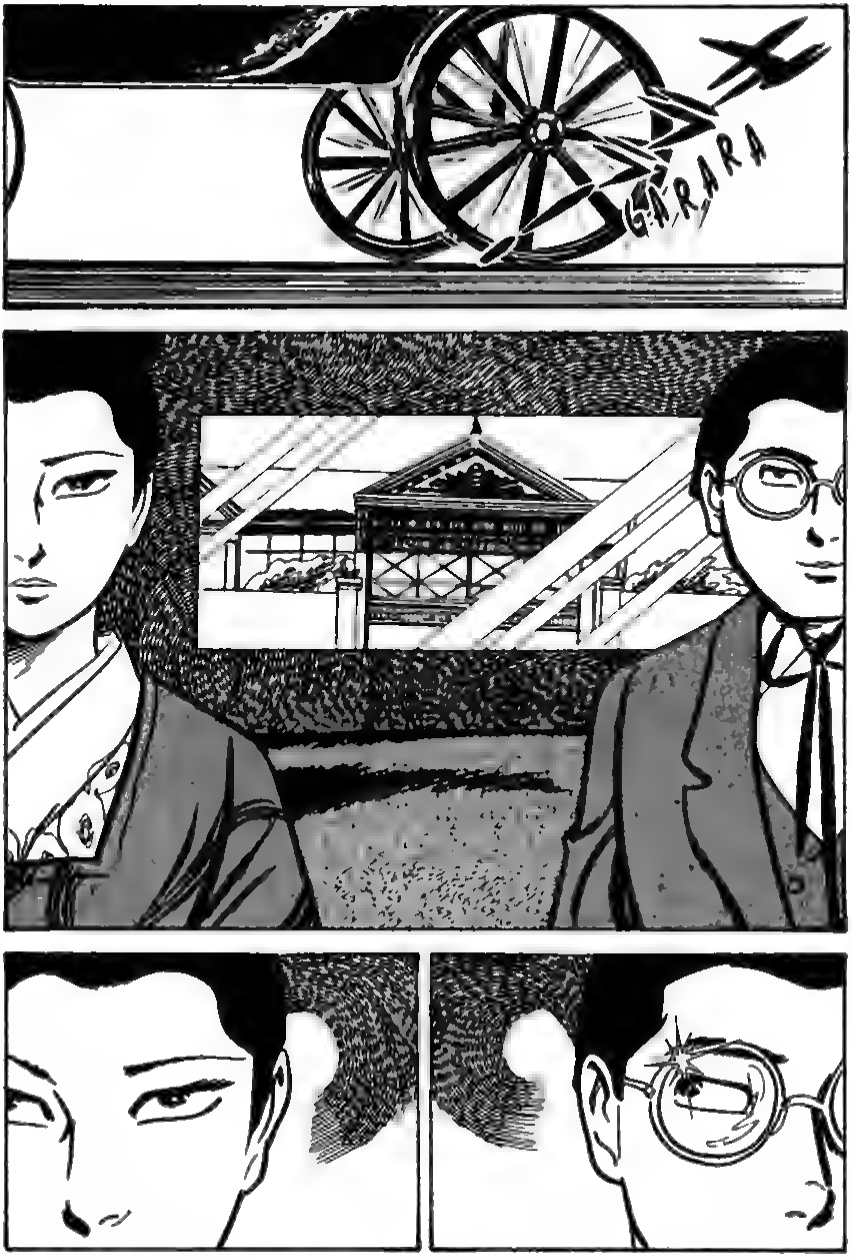

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
A TUNK!

WH-- WHAT BEAUTY...!
CHIK
I AM MRS. KURODA.
EXCUSE ME, MADAM. I AM SEIKI NISHIOMI, A PHOTOG-RAPHER.

YOUR BEAUTY IS OUT OF THIS WORLD...
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CAPTURING YOUR BEAUTY FOREVER IN A PHOTOGRAPH TO MEMORIALIZE IT?
TEE HEE HEE. YOU FLATTER ME.
VERY WELL THEN. WILL YOU VISIT MY STUDIO? THAT'S WHERE EVERYONE, INCLUDING MRS. TOHYAMA AND MRS. MITSUI, TOOK THEIR PICTURES.


YOU SEE, PHOTOGRAPHY REQUIRES SPECIAL LIGHTING.
THAT SOUNDS FINE. I CAN GO RIGHT NOW.
WONDERFUL. COME WITH ME IN MY CARRIAGE THEN.

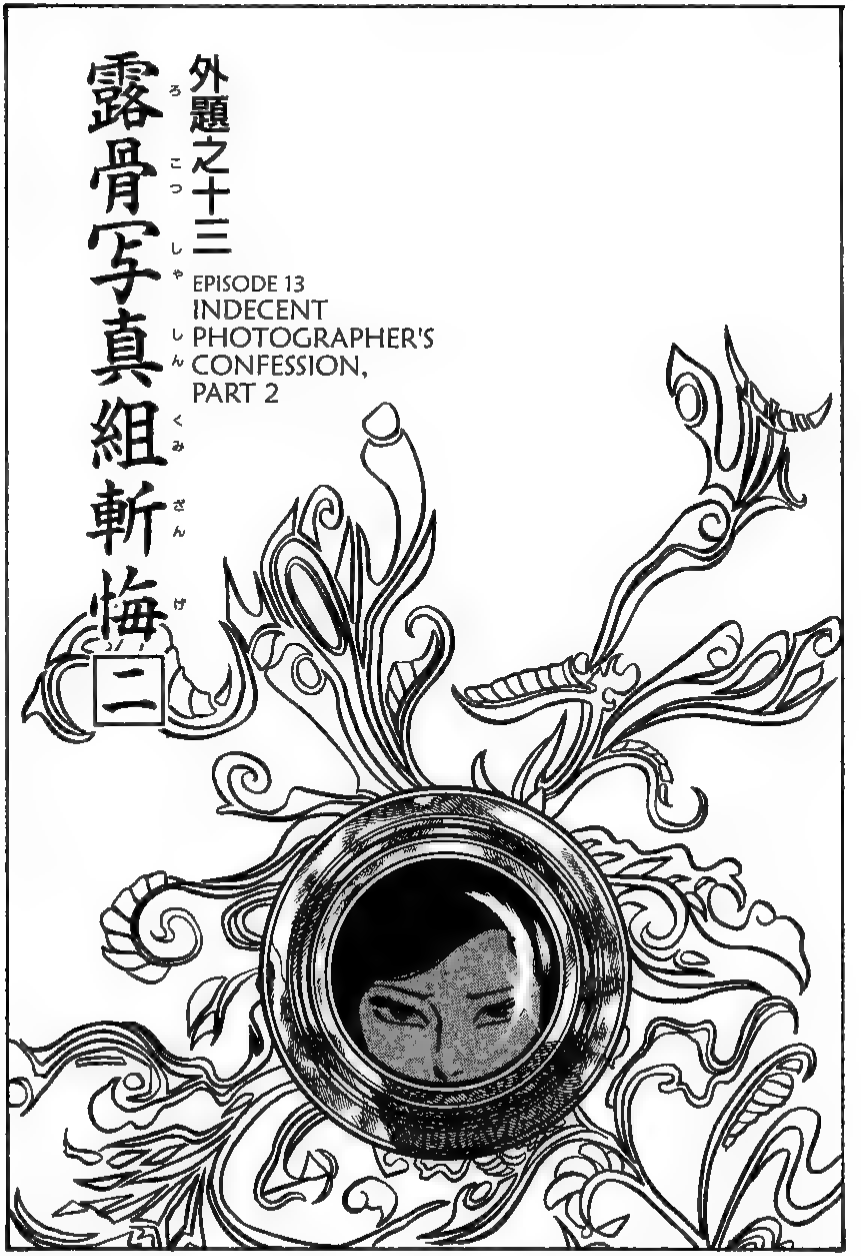

BUT I'D LIKE TO BRING IT.
MADAM, I DON'T THINK YOU NEED AN UMBRELLA.
?!
I'LL BE BACK SOON.

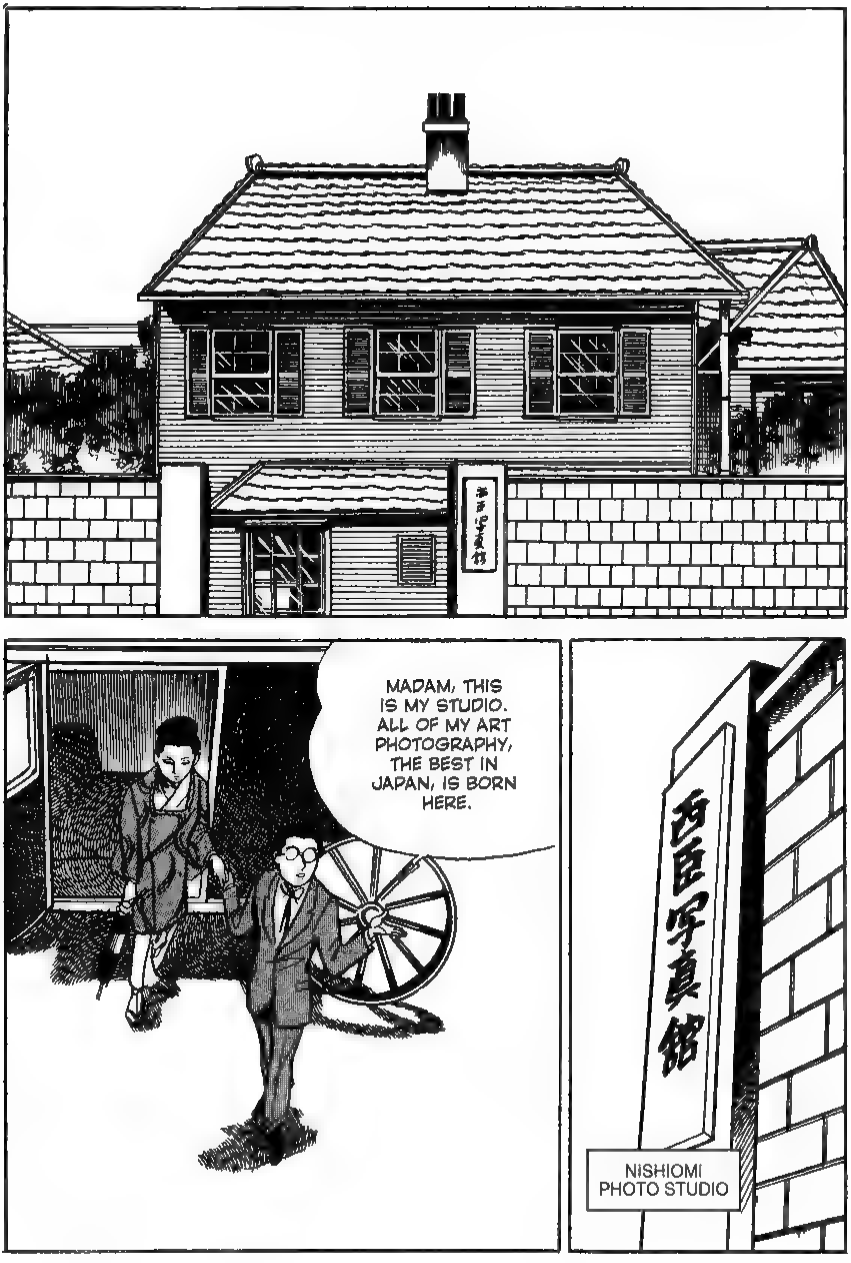

GARARA

外題之十三

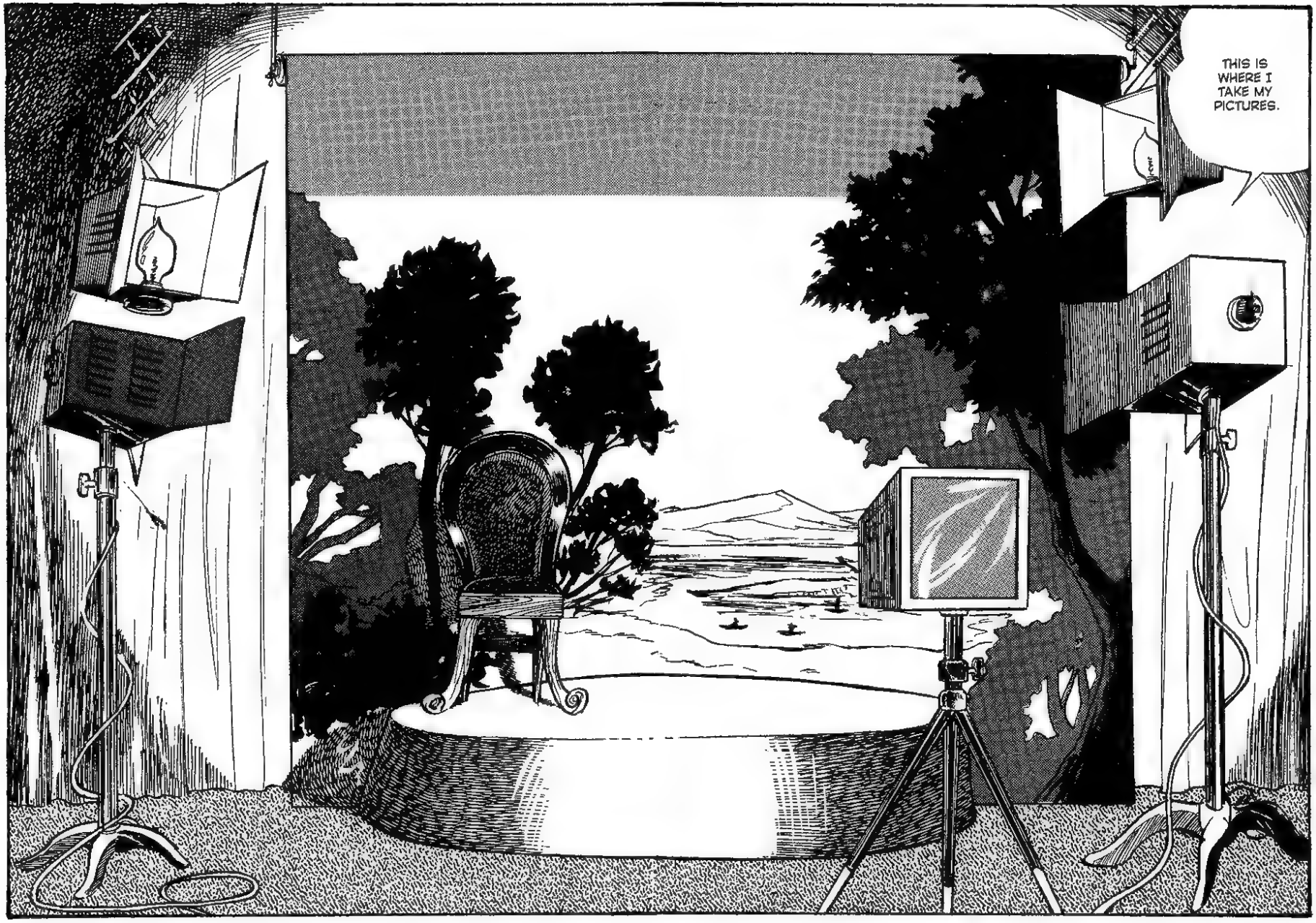
露骨写真組斬悔 二

EPISODE 13
INDECENT
PHOTOGRAPHER'S
CONFESSION,
PART 2




MADAM, THIS IS MY STUDIO. ALL OF MY ART PHOTOGRAPHY, THE BEST IN JAPAN, IS BORN HERE.
西臣写真館
NISHIOMI PHOTO STUDIO

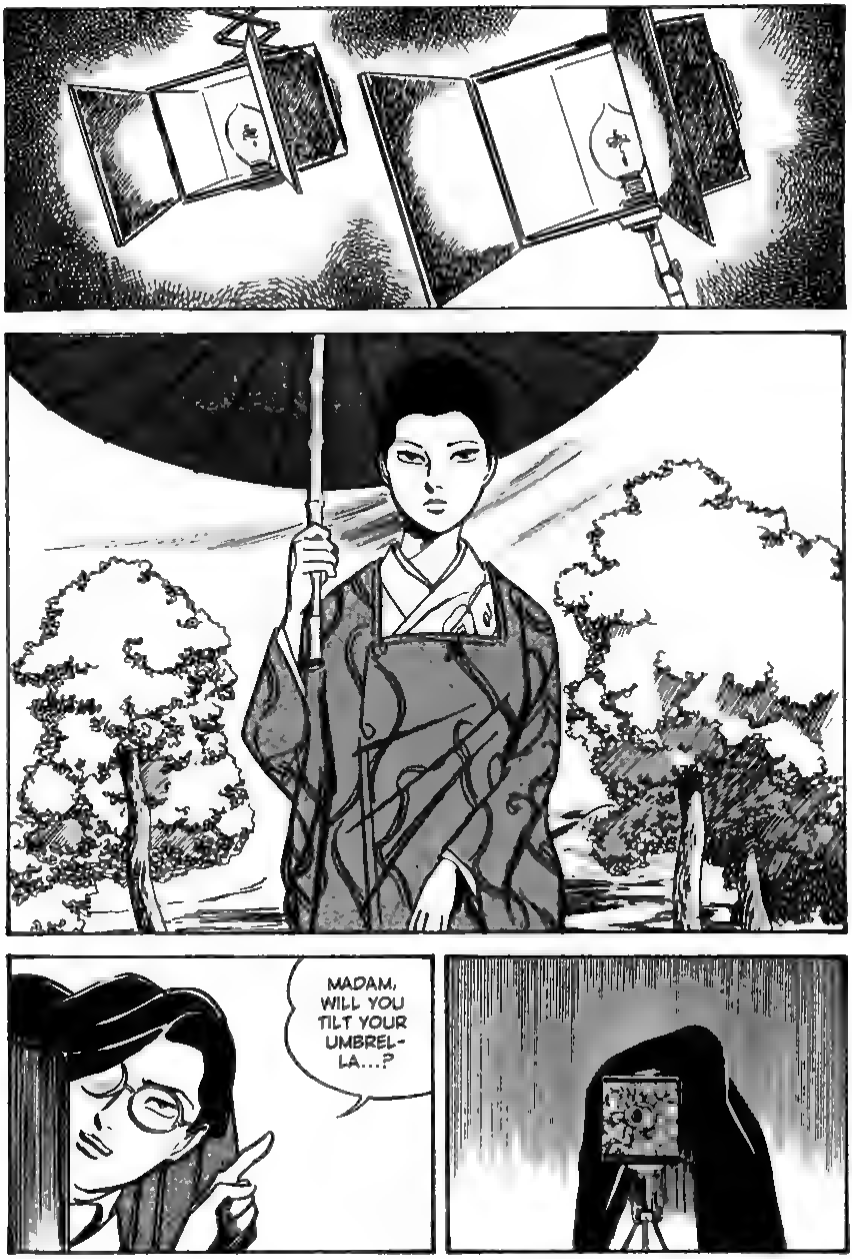
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
...
...
THAT'S WHY I HAVE MY ASSISTANTS DRESS UP LIKE *KUROKO*. THAT WAY, THEY WON'T BOTHER ANYONE.
ART PHOTOGRAPHY PURSUES BEAUTY WITHOUT LIMIT, AND SUCH BEAUTY MUST NOT BE DISTURBED.


THIS IS WHERE I TAKE MY PICTURES.

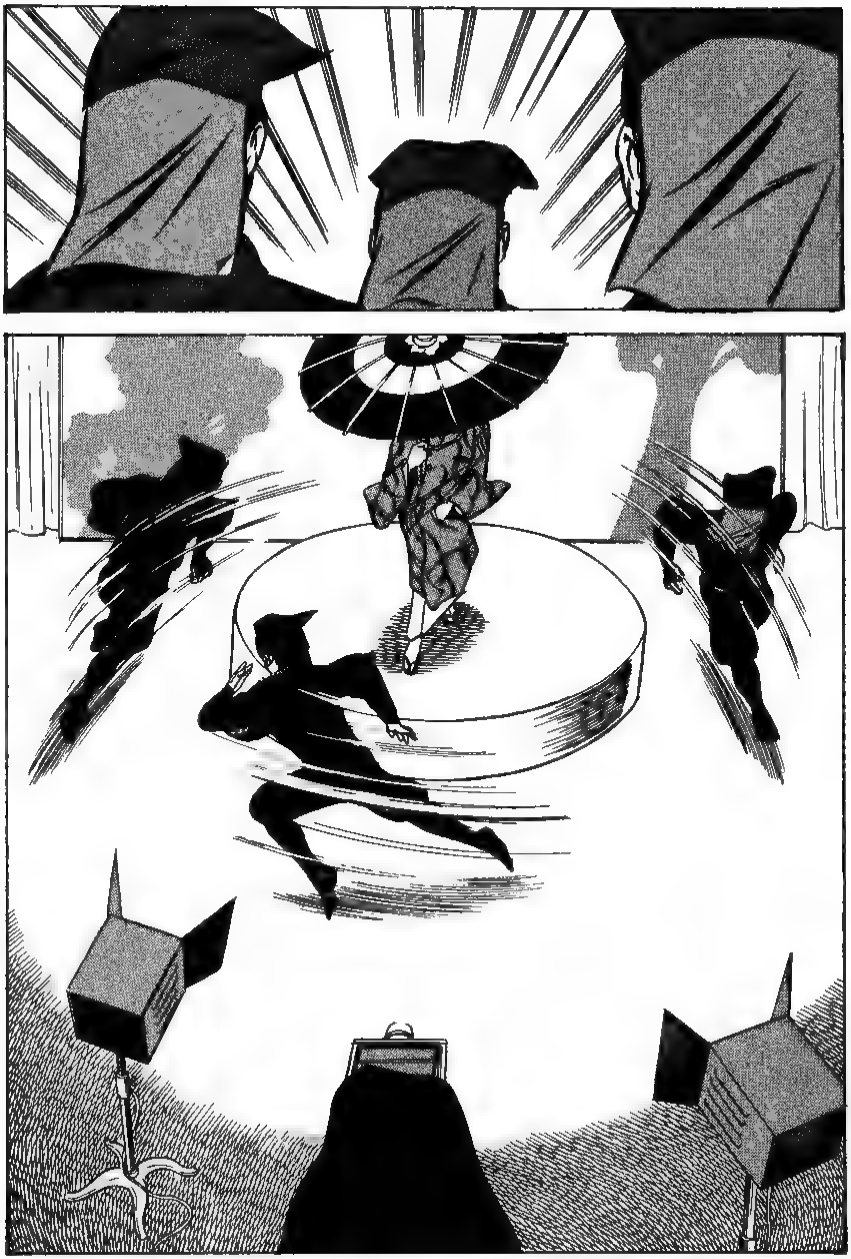
THEY ARE CALLED ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS. THEY'RE MADE OF PAPER AND PAINT. THERE'S NO ART PHOTOGRAPHY WITHOUT FLOWERS.
OH MY, YOU HAVE FLOWERS IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER...?
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK. AS YOU CAN SEE, ALL OF THESE LADIES OF TOKYO HIGHLY RECOMMEND MY WORKS OF ART.

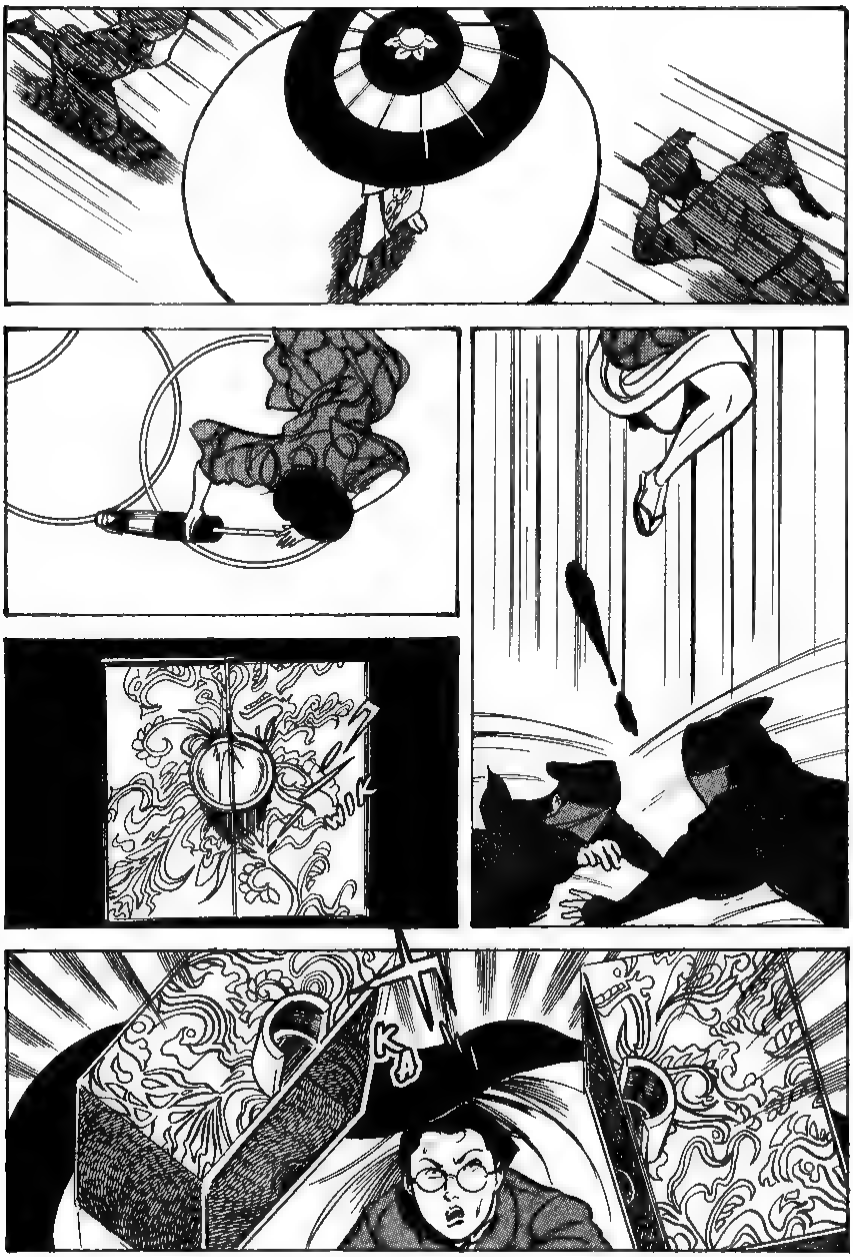
MADAM, SHALL I TAKE YOUR UMBREL-LA?
I'LL GET SET UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE WAIT JUST A WHILE.
WHAT ABOUT A SCENE WHERE I STAND WITH AN OPEN UMBRELLA? I WANT TO LOOK DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS, AND THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT IT WITH ME.
AN OPEN UMBRELLA... HMMM, THAT'S A *GREAT* IDEA. WHAT AN UNEXPECTED COMPOSITION. INDEED, MADAM, YOU ARE AN EXTRAORDINARY LADY.

HEH
HEH
HEH...


MADAM, WILL YOU TILT YOUR UMBREL-LA...?

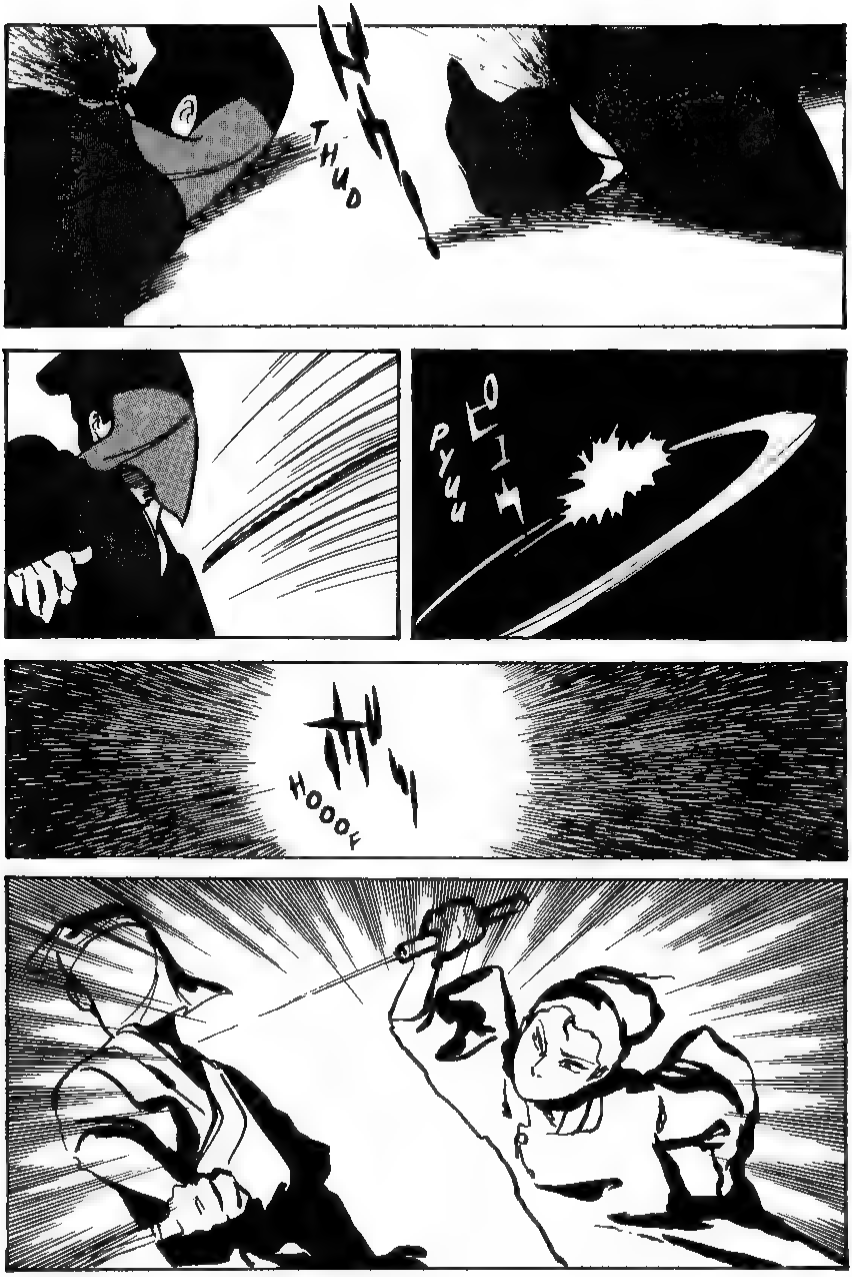
NOW, LET'S START THE PHOTO SESSION. IT'S CALLED MRS KURODA'S FALLEN FLOWER RUNS AMUCK!
HEE HEE HEE!
...
...

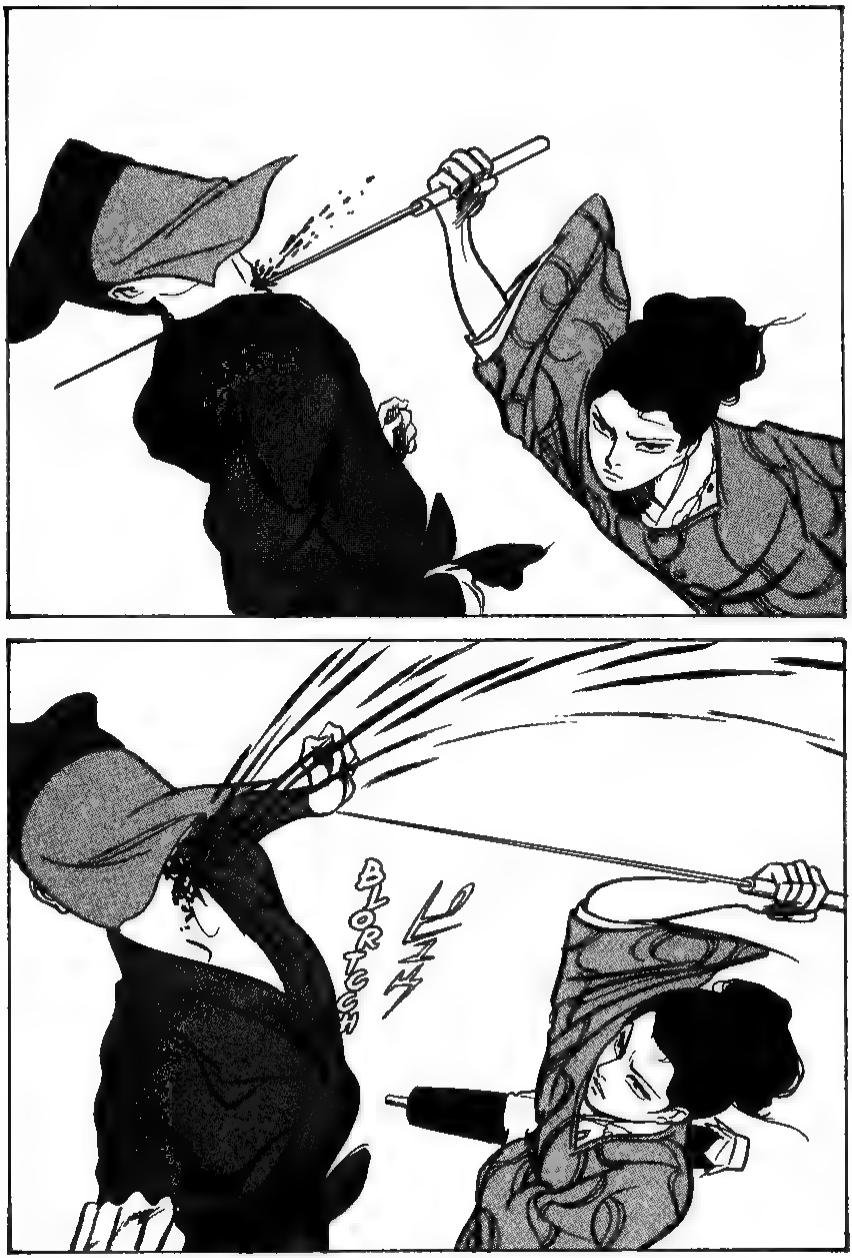



KA

WHO ARE YOU?!
I'VE EXPOSED YOU, INDECENT PHOTOG-RAPHER!
Uhhh...
SYURA YUKI HAS COME TO TAKE REVENGE ON BEHALF OF MRS. SHIRAKAWA, WHO MET AN UNTIMELY DEATH BECAUSE OF YOU!

KILL HER!
HMPH! YOU IMPER-TINENT BITCH!
SHHINK
THTHUMP

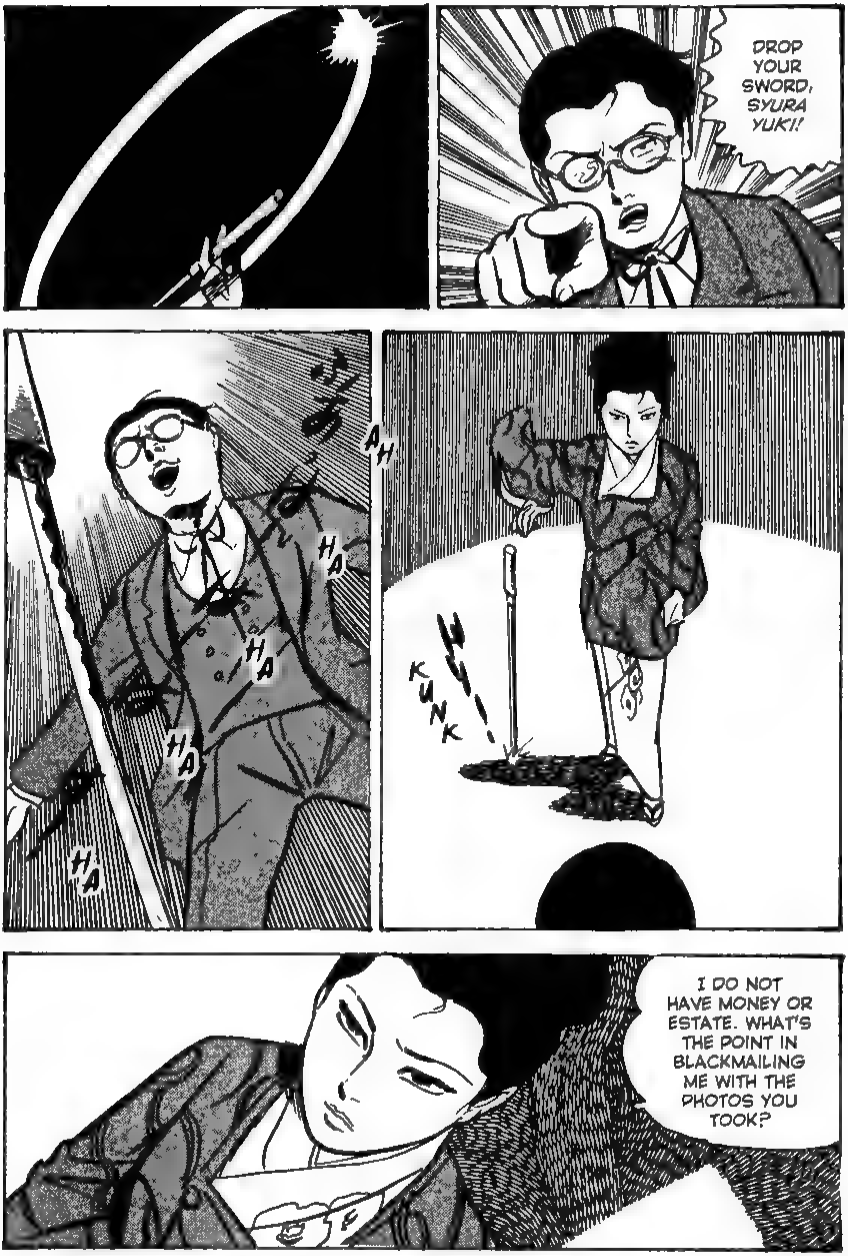

THUD
PYUU
HOOOH

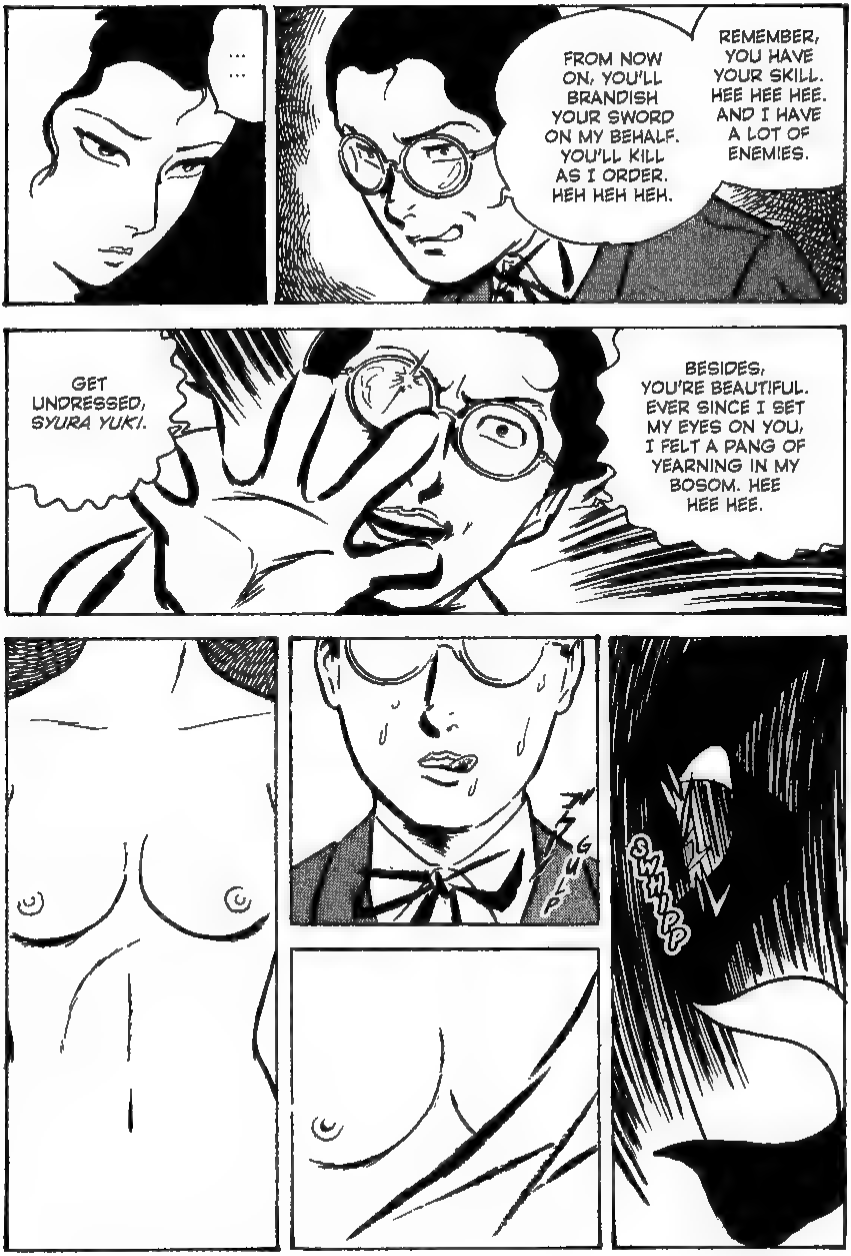

AIRTIGHT

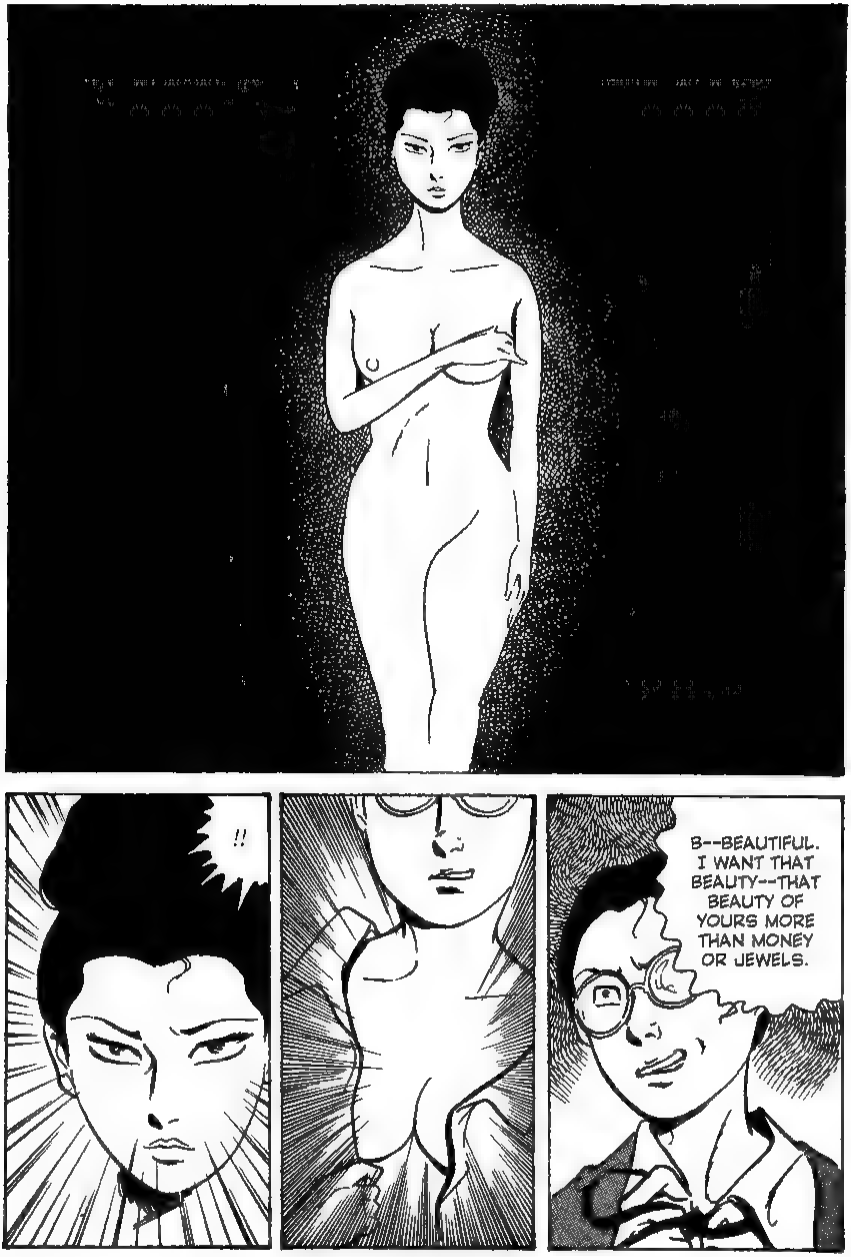
ふ、けけけ!
AH HA HA HA HA
!!
IT'S A FIRST EVEN FOR ME TO PHOTOGRAPH SUCH A SCENE OF CARNAGE.
...!
I HAVE MORE THAN ONE CAMERA OBSCURA. ANOTHER IS SET UP IN THE ADJOINING ROOM TO CAPTURE THE SCENE IN HERE!

YOU ARE THE *SYURA YUKI* THEN. THE HEROINE OF GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA'S NOVEL. THE POLICE BELIEVE THAT YOU EXIST FOR REAL, AND GAIKOTSU HAS BEEN CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING. I HEAR THEY'RE DESPERATE TO ARREST YOU.
...
...
I KNOW WHAT MRS. KURODA LOOKS LIKE. I'VE SEEN HER AT A TEA PARTY. I LURED YOU IN HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE. AH HA HA HA.
KILL ME IF YOU WANT. BUT IF YOU DO, THE PICTURES OF YOUR MURDERS WILL FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE POLICE! THEY'LL BE INDISPUTABLE PROOF. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

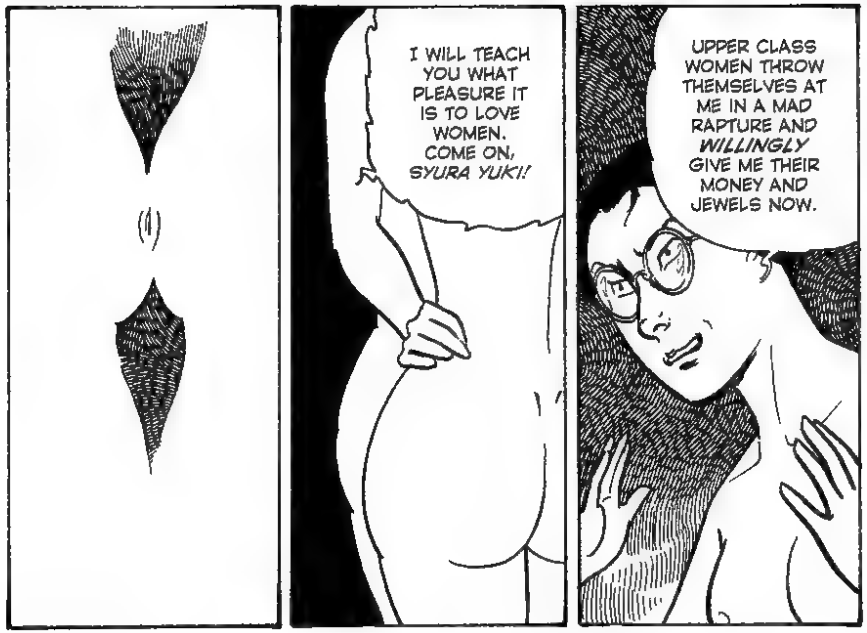
SYURA YUKI, HUH? HEH HEH HEH. A RARE, SNOW-LIKE BEAUTY. ONE OF A KIND, WITH ICY TERROR HIDDEN BEHIND. YOUR NAME SUITS YOU. HEE HEE HEE.
...
...
BUT EVEN YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM MY HAND. FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL GIVE UP EVERYTHING TO SERVE ME.
YOU'LL BE MY FAITHFUL SERVANT! HEH HEH HEH.

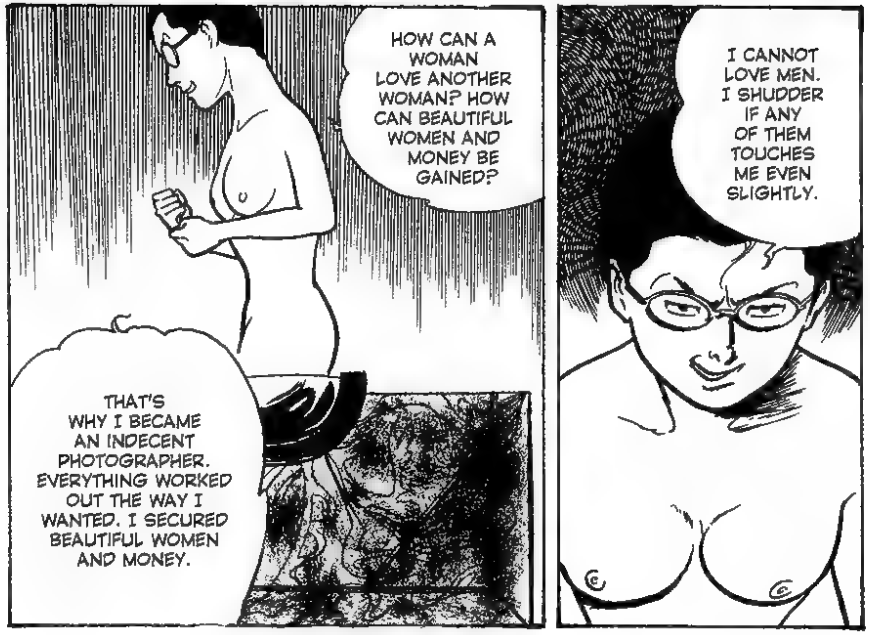

DROP YOUR SWORD, SYURA YUKI!
AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
KUNK
I DO NOT HAVE MONEY OR ESTATE. WHAT'S THE POINT IN BLACKMAILING ME WITH THE PHOTOS YOU TOOK?

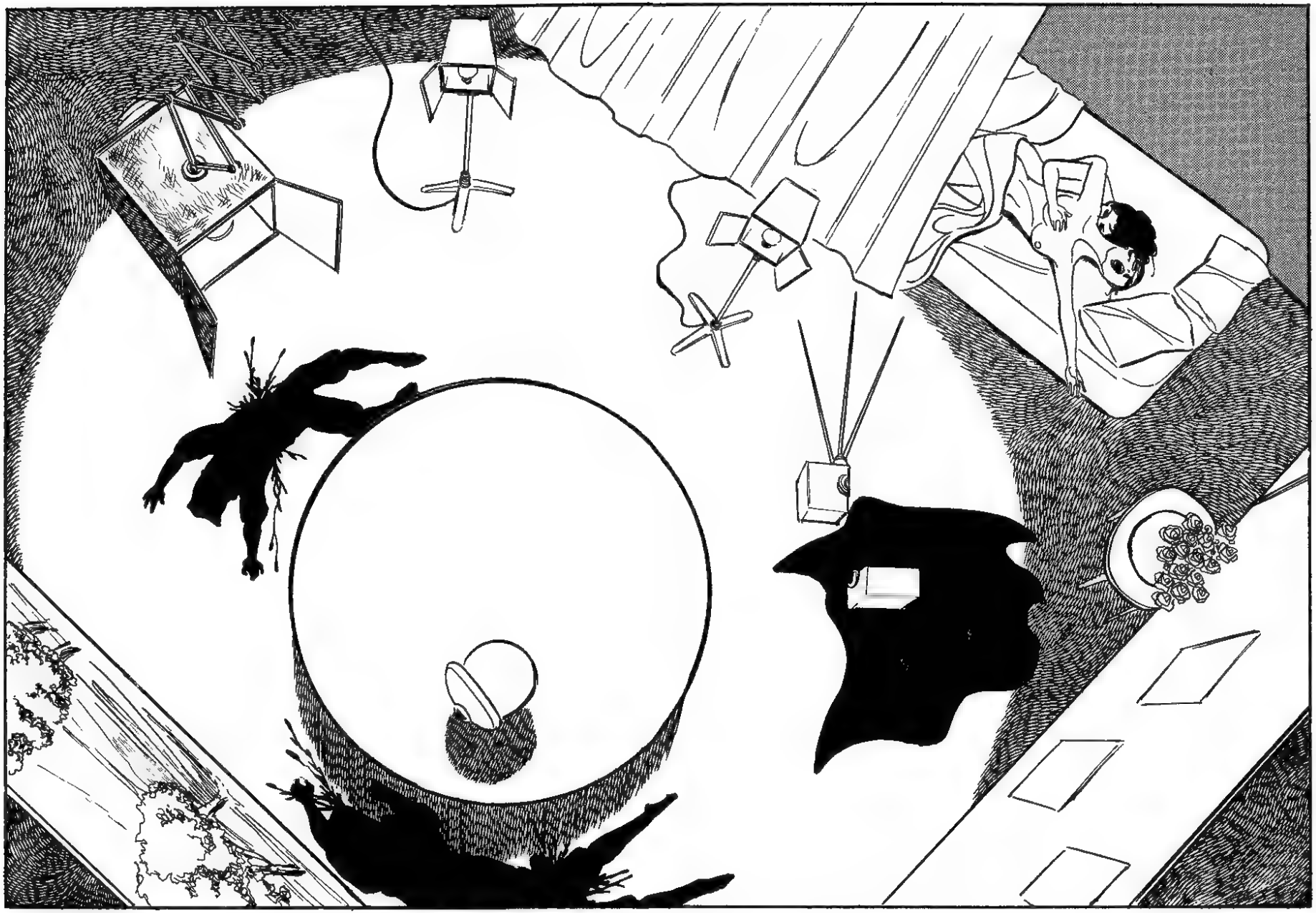

...
...
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BRANDISH YOUR SWORD ON MY BEHALF. YOU'LL KILL AS I ORDER. HEH HEH HEH.
REMEMBER, YOU HAVE YOUR SKILL. HEE HEE HEE. AND I HAVE A LOT OF ENEMIES.
GET UNDRESSED, SYURA YUKI.
BESIDES, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. EVER SINCE I SET MY EYES ON YOU, I FELT A PANG OF YEARNING IN MY BOSOM. HEE HEE HEE.
GULP
SWHPP

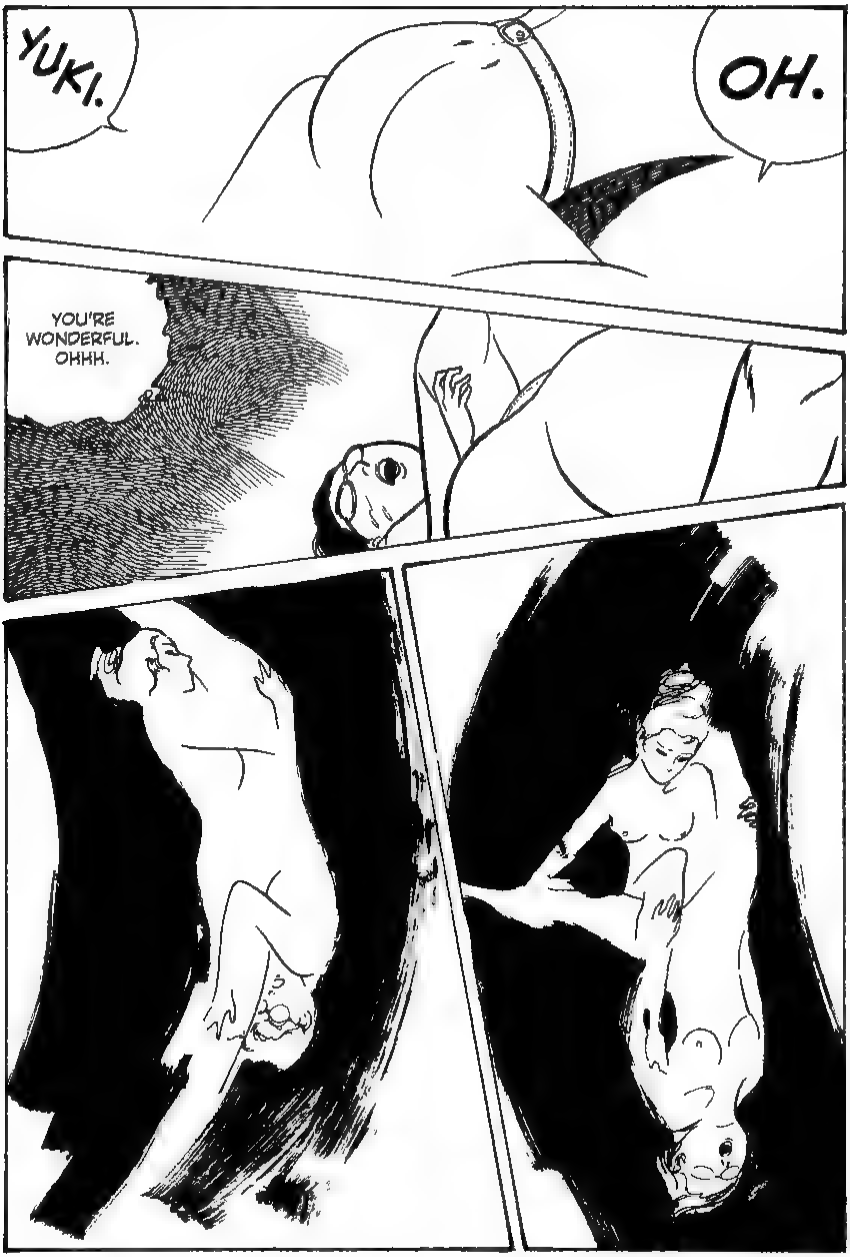

!!
B--BEAUTIFUL. I WANT THAT BEAUTY--THAT BEAUTY OF YOURS MORE THAN MONEY OR JEWELS.

HEH HEH HEH... ARE YOU SURPRISED?


I WILL TEACH YOU WHAT PLEASURE IT IS TO LOVE WOMEN. COME ON, SYURA YUKI!
UPPER CLASS WOMEN THROW THEMSELVES AT ME IN A MAD RAPTURE AND WILLINGLY GIVE ME THEIR MONEY AND JEWELS NOW.

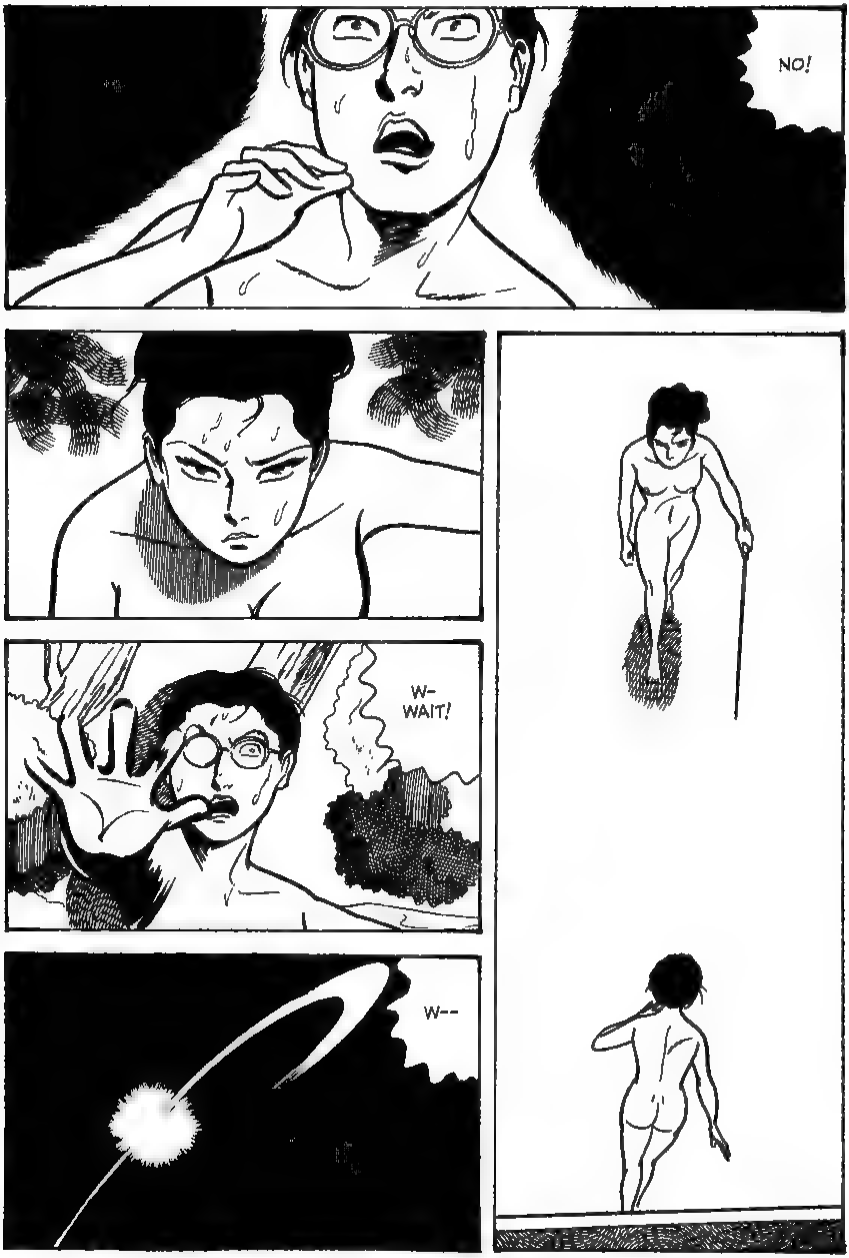

HOW CAN A WOMAN LOVE ANOTHER WOMAN? HOW CAN BEAUTIFUL WOMEN AND MONEY BE GAINED?
THAT'S WHY I BECAME AN INDECENT PHOTOGRAPHER. EVERYTHING WORKED OUT THE WAY I WANTED. I SECURED BEAUTIFUL WOMEN AND MONEY.
I CANNOT LOVE MEN. I SHUDDER IF ANY OF THEM TOUCHES ME EVEN SLIGHTLY.



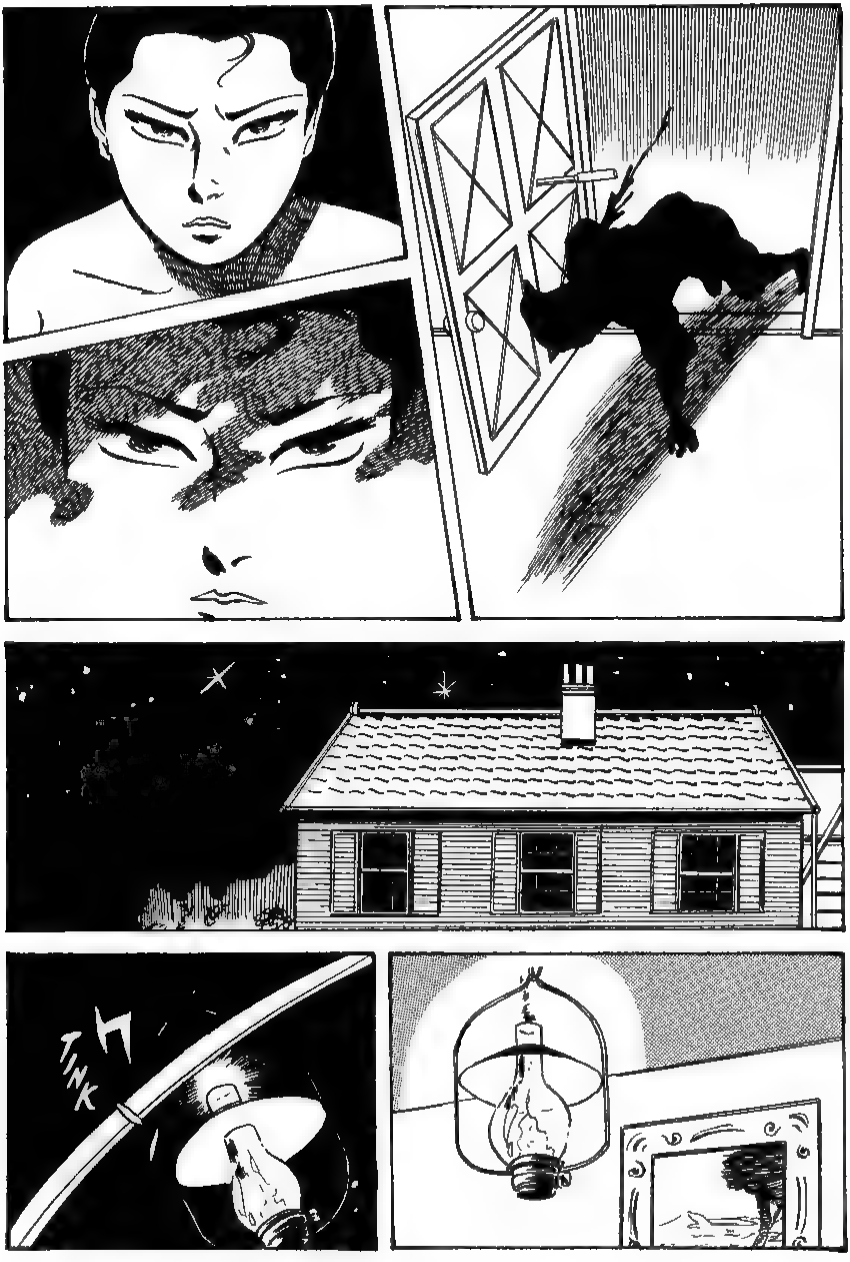

YUKI.
OH.
YOU'RE WONDERFUL. OHHH.

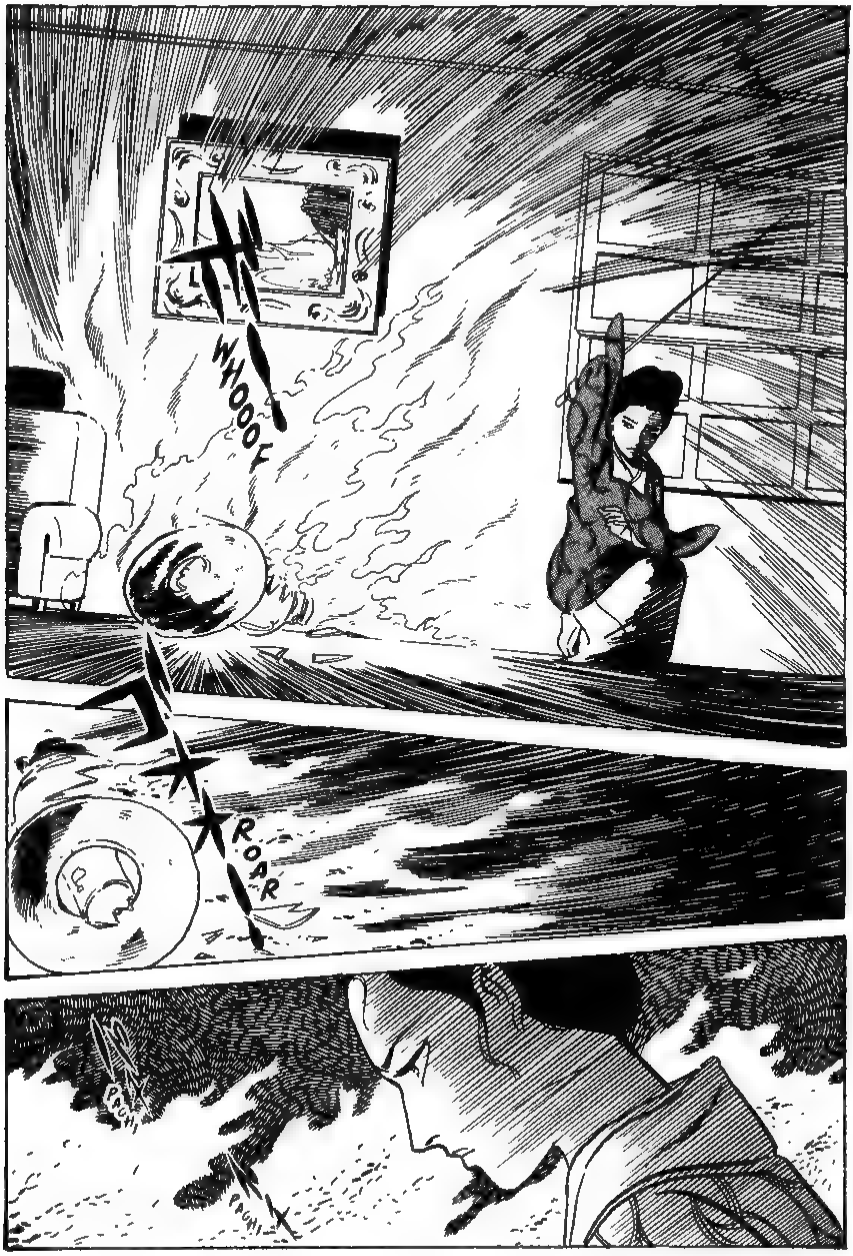
THE INDECENT PICTURES OF THE UPPER-CLASS WOMEN ARE INSIDE THIS HOUSE, AREN'T THEY?
YES, BUT THEY'RE HIDDEN WHERE YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND THEM. IT'S USELESS TO LOOK. AND THE PICTURES OF YOU WILL BE DEVELOPED AND STORED THERE RIGHT AWAY.
JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT. NOW... YUKI...
W- WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
BAM

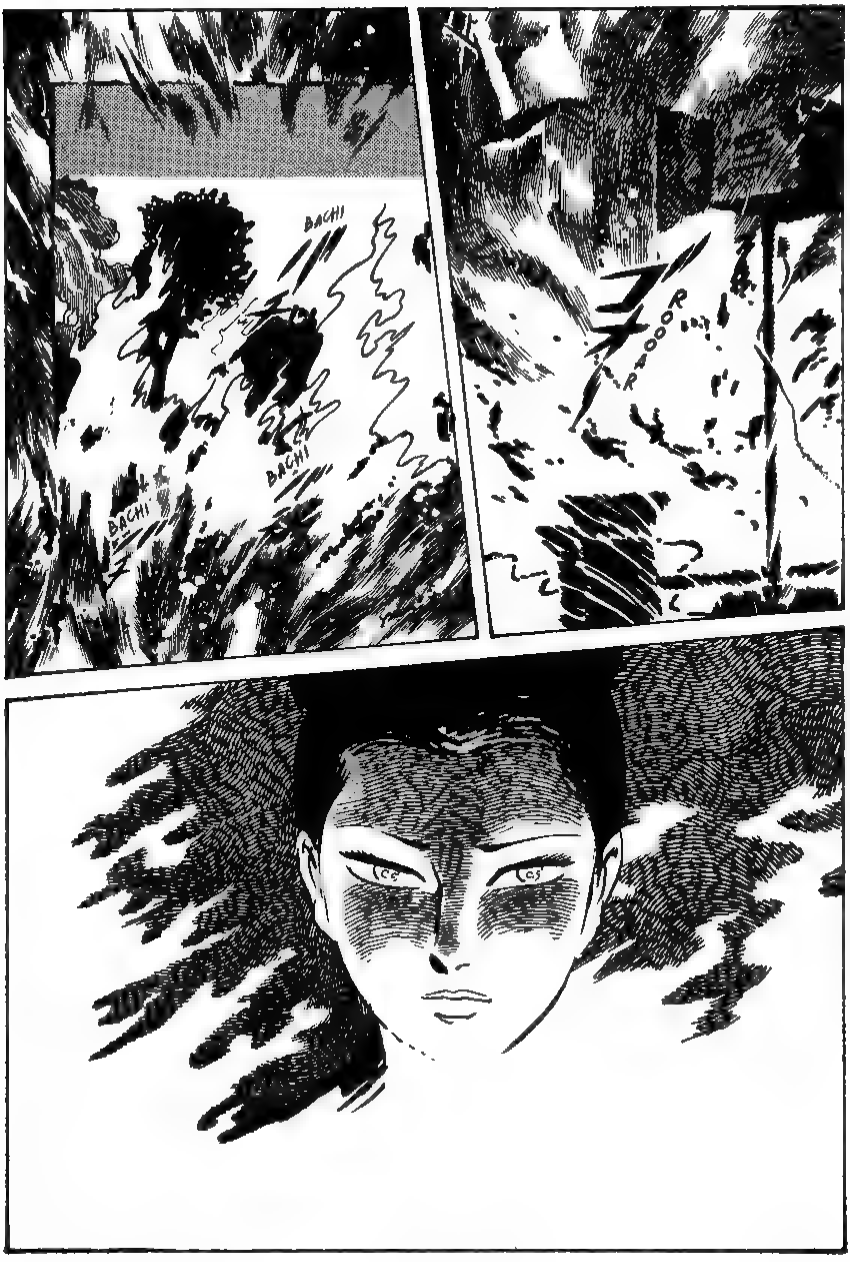
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR *MIND?* THEY'RE WELL HIDDEN. YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND THEM. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
ALL I WANTED TO KNOW WAS THAT THEY'RE SOMEWHERE INSIDE! I DON'T WANT OTHERS TO USE THEM AFTER I KILL YOU.
WHAT?!
AFTER I KILL YOU, I'LL SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE, AND EVERYTHING WILL TURN TO ASHES.
SO LONG AS THEY'RE INSIDE THE HOUSE, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
SHAA

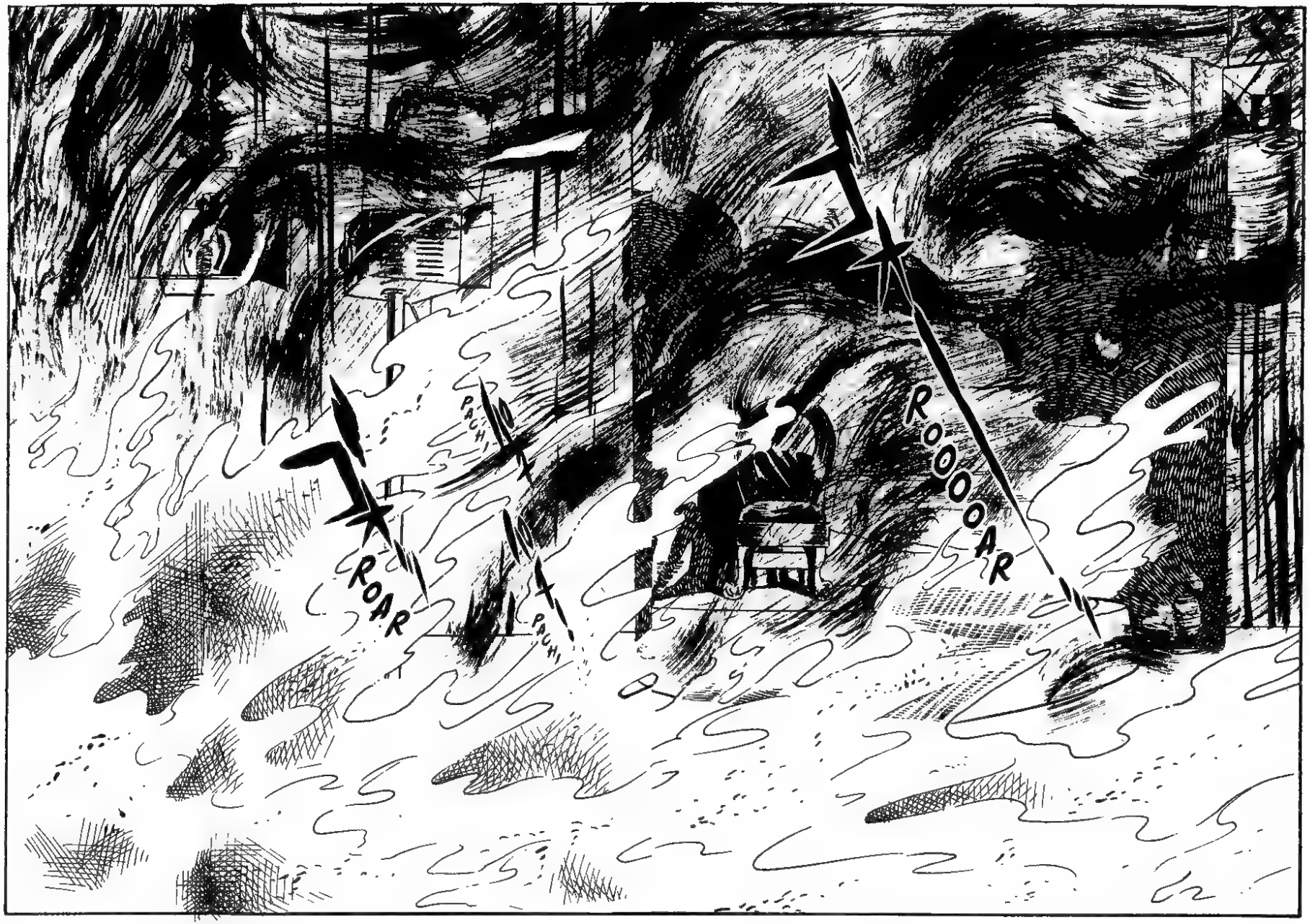

NO!
W-
WAIT!
W--

GIUTCHH
SHU
GYAHH


TINK


WHOOOF
ROAR
PAGH!
PAGH!

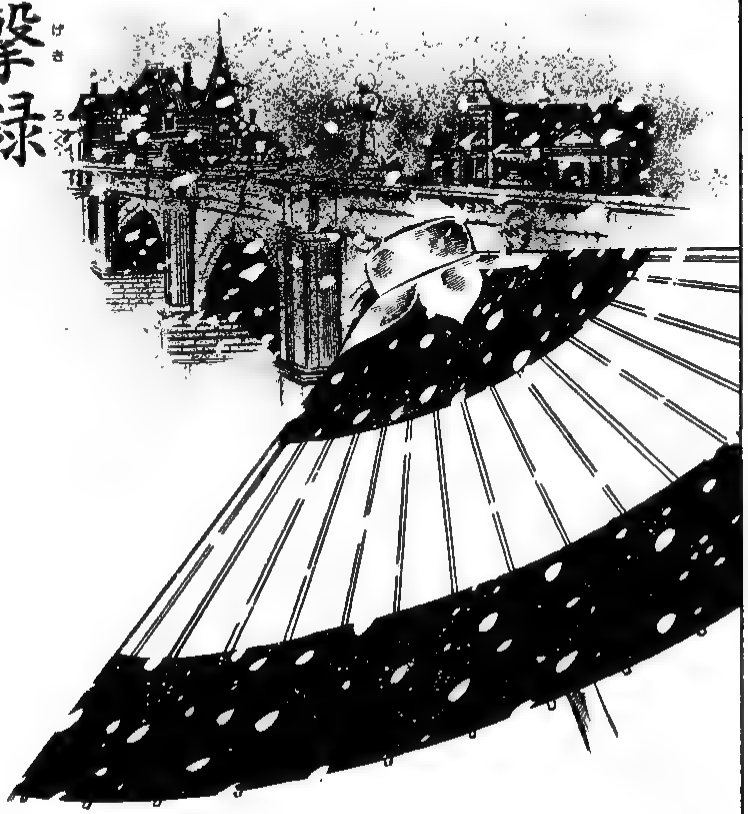

BACHI
BACHI
BACHI
ドドド


ROAR
PACHI
PACHI
ROOOOAR

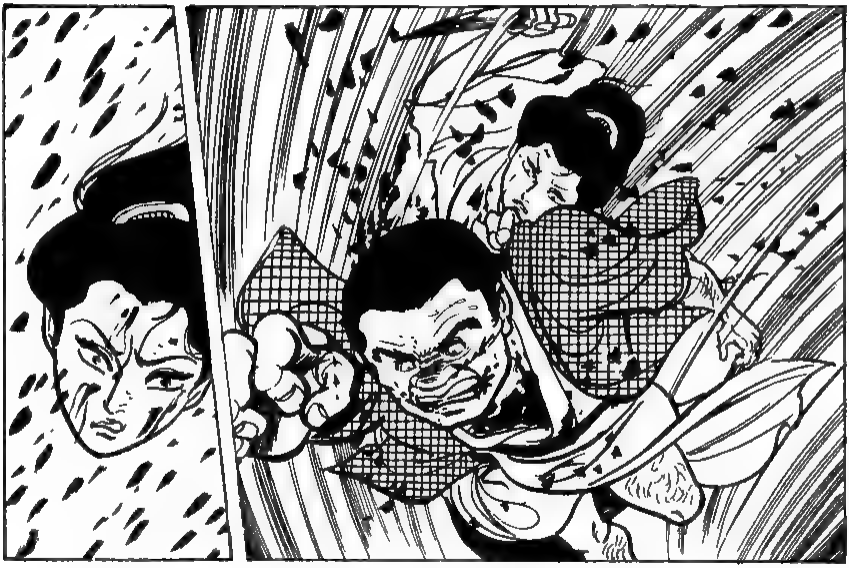
INDECENT PHOTOGRAPHER'S CONFESSION / THE END

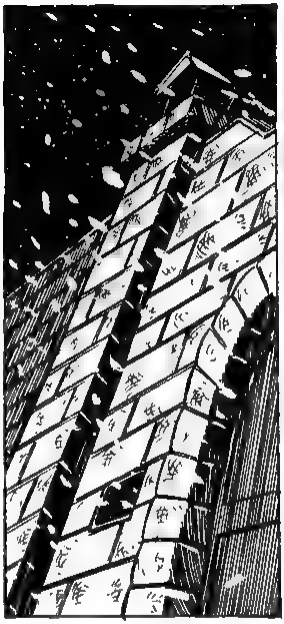
外題之十四
儀四郎反撃録

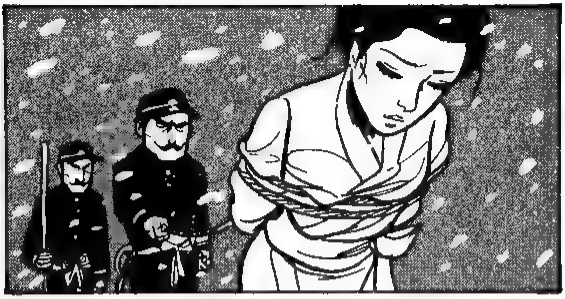
EPISODE 14
AN ACCOUNT
OF HOW GISHIRO
STRIKES BACK

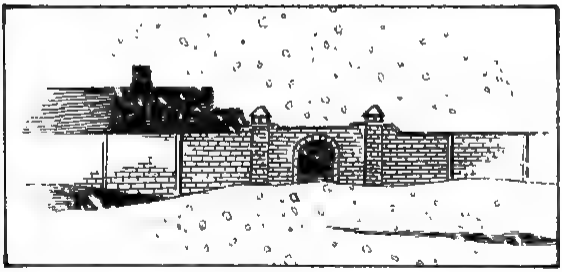


CHUK

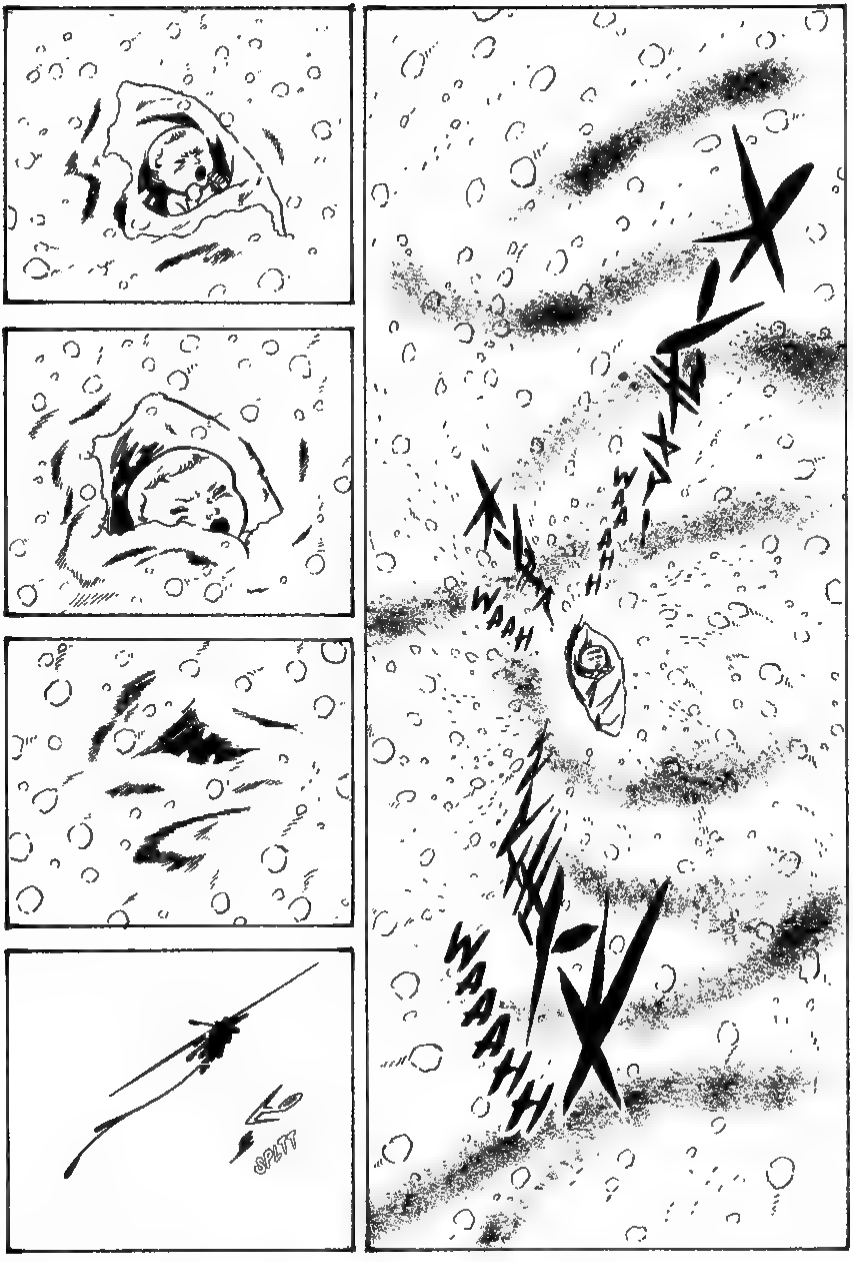


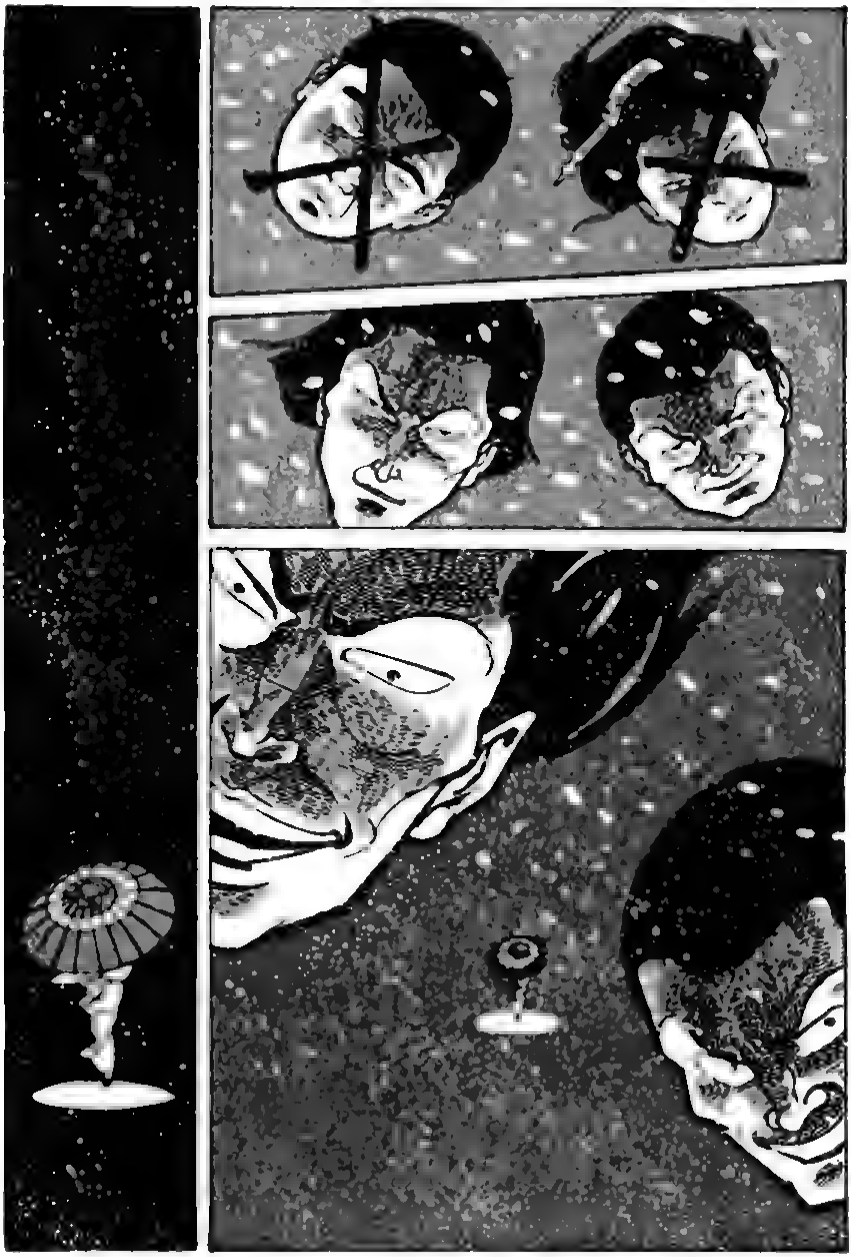


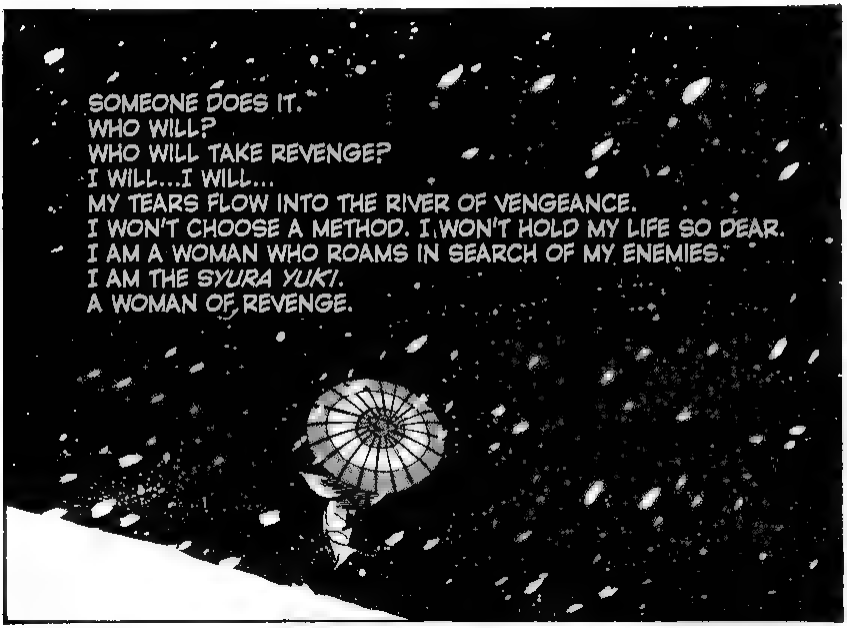




SPLIT

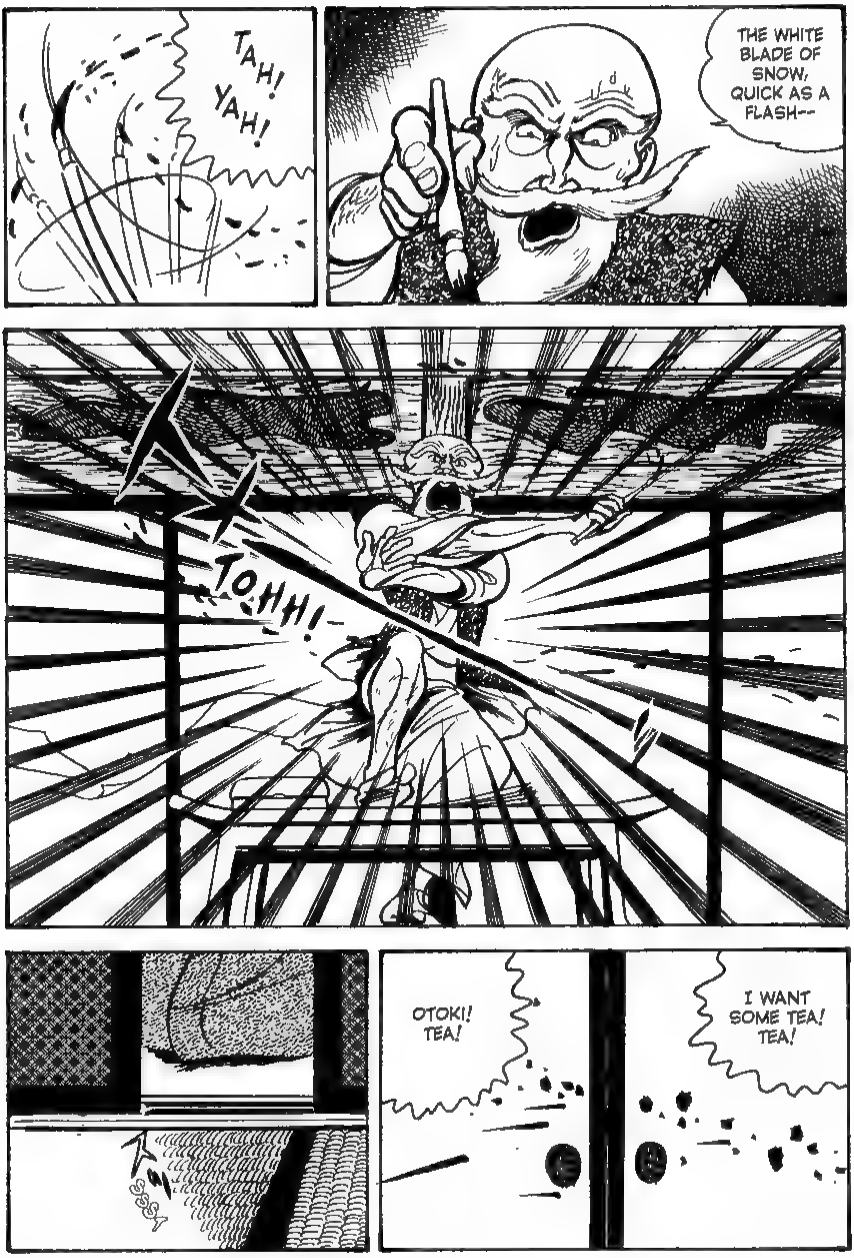

SPLIT
WAAAHH
WAAAHH
WAAAHH
WAAAHH

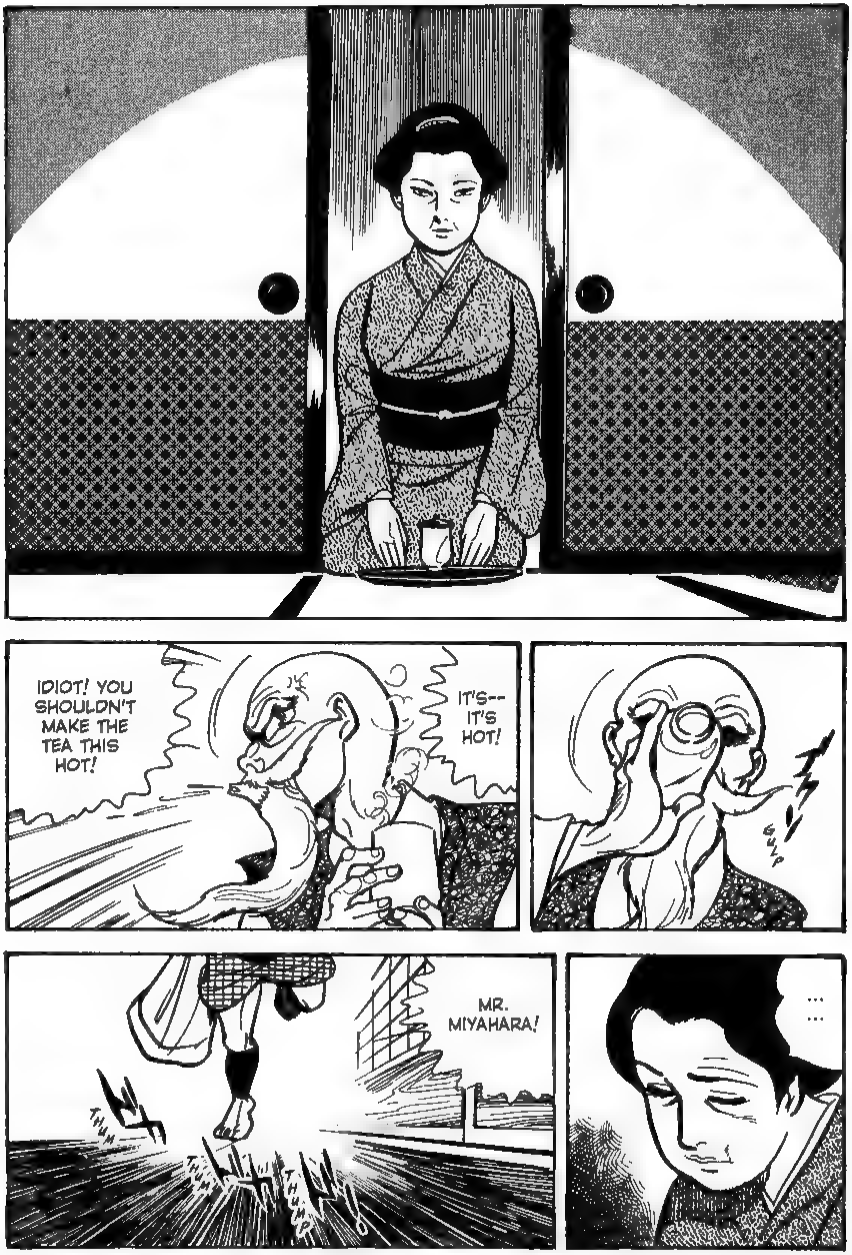



SOMEONE DOES IT.
WHO WILL?
WHO WILL TAKE REVENGE?
I WILL...I WILL...
MY TEARS FLOW INTO THE RIVER OF VENGEANCE.
I WON'T CHOOSE A METHOD. I WON'T HOLD MY LIFE SO DEAR.
I AM A WOMAN WHO ROAMS IN SEARCH OF MY ENEMIES.
I AM THE SYURA YUKI.
A WOMAN OF REVENGE.

SOMEONE DOES IT.
TO WHOM?
REVENGE FOR WHAT?
IT'S FOR...IT'S FOR...
I DEVOTE MYSELF TO THE WHIRLPOOL OF MY DESTINY.
WITHOUT RELAXING. WITHOUT PITYING.
I AM A WOMAN WHO LOOKS AWAY AND LEAVES.
I AM THE SYURA YUKI.
A WOMAN OF VENGEANCE.

GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA
THE WHITE BLADE OF VENGEANCE CALLS UPON YUKI...
THE FALLING SNOW, SWIRLING AND SCATTER-ING
SYURA YUKI
KRRAUGH
NO GOOD!


TAH!
YAH!
THE WHITE BLADE OF SNOW, QUICK AS A FLASH--
KA
TOHH!
OTOKI! TEA!
I WANT SOME TEA! TEA!


IDIOT! YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE THE TEA THIS HOT!
IT'S-- IT'S HOT!
MR. MIYAHARA!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
...
...

DID YOU GET IT DONE, AKIAKI?
SIR!
YES!

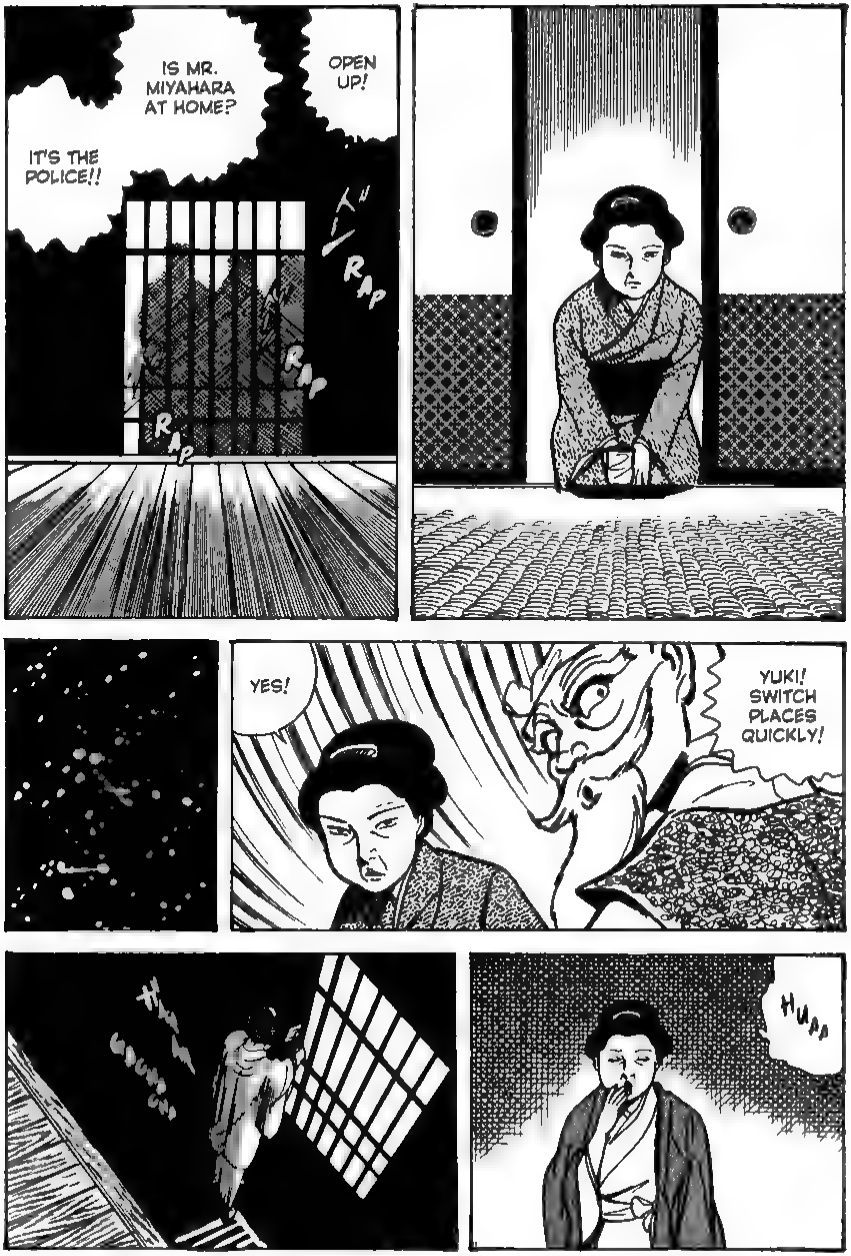
MMM! SO THIS IS WHAT GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO LOOKS LIKE.
HMPH, THEY BOTH HAVE AN EVIL LOOK. LIKE THE COUNTE-NANCE OF AN ATROCIOUS OGRE.
AND THIS IS HANZO TAKEMURA.
IT'S NO WONDER, THE WAY YOU REACT. AFTER ALL, YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOUR ENEMIES LOOKED LIKE.
TH-THESE ARE...THEIR FACES...

SHE SAYS SHE HAS NO IDEA WHERE THEY ARE. SHE NEVER SAW THEM AGAIN, SINCE THEY PARTED LONG AGO. BUT SHE REMEMBERS THEIR FACES WELL.
IT WASN'T AN EASY TASK. I HAD TO PERSUADE OKONO KITAHAMA IN LOCK-UP TO HELP ME, GIVING HER GIFTS AND ALL. IT COST ME A SMALL FORTUNE.
I ASKED A MILLION QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR FEATURES, DREW OVER SIX HUNDRED IMAGES, AND AT LAST, I GOT THEIR FACES RIGHT.
HMM, I SEE.
WHO IS SHE, SIR?!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TROUBLE.
GOOD JOB, AKIAKI. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE BEST PORTRAIT ARTIST IN JAPAN.
SHE'S GOT GOOD MANNERS, YOU KNOW.
ER--WELL, SH-SHE'S OTOKI. A NEW MAID I RECENTLY HIRED.

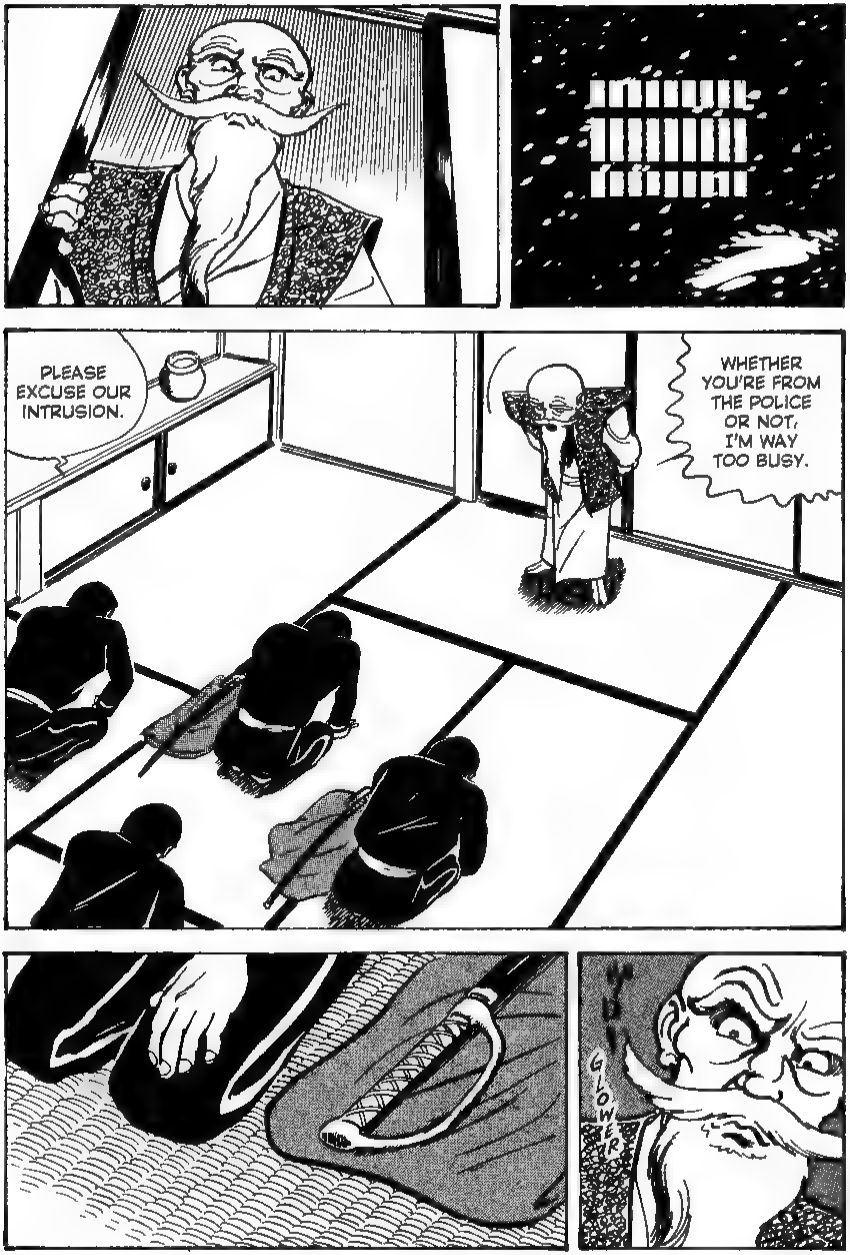
THE FOURTEENTH EPISODE WILL BE DEDICATED TO GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO!
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO WRITE!
I WILL LURE HIM OUT NO MATTER WHAT!
AKIAKI, MAKE SURE TO DRAW A LARGE IMAGE OF HIS PORTRAIT.
YES, SIR!

SYURA YUKI EPISODE 14
AN ACCOUNT OF HOW
GISHIRO STRIKES BACK

YUKI OVERWHELMS HER DESTINY. THE WIND SWIRLS HER SLEEVES. SHE IS A WOMAN WHO ROAMS IN QUEST OF HER ENEMIES.
GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA
CALL HER MAD. CALL HER A REBEL. SHE LEAVES IT TO OTHERS TO DECIDE. AH, SYURA YUKI. WHAT SENTIMENTS ARE KEPT HIDDEN INSIDE HER BOSOM?
SPLOUSH
SYURA YUKI HIME
I SHOULDN'T EXPRESS MY SYMPATHY!
POOR SYURA YUKI. A SAD EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WITH THE COUNTENANCE OF A FLOWER. LAST YEAR. THIS YEAR. AH, SHE EVOKES PITY, LITTLE MAIDEN OF SPRING.
OTOKI! BRING TEA!
URG! CRAP!!

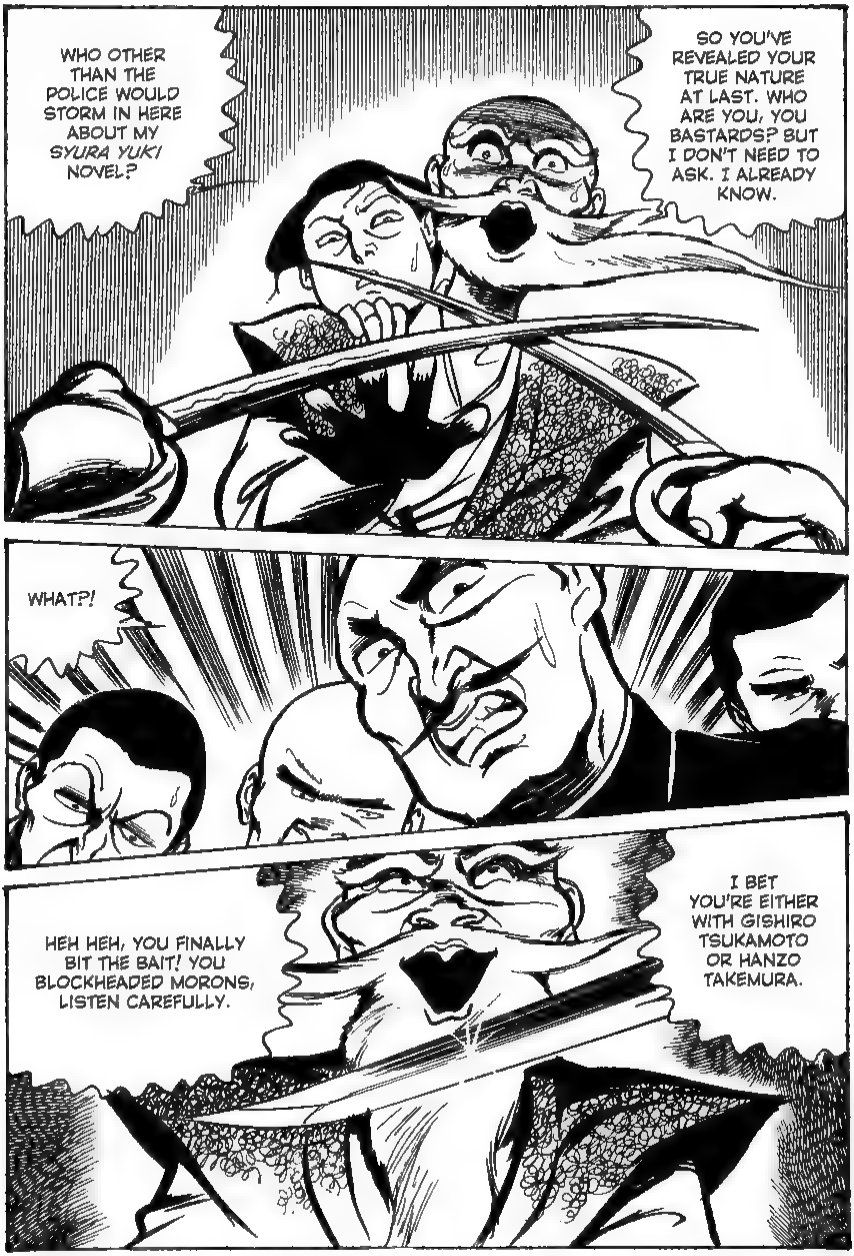

IS MR. MIYAHARA AT HOME?
OPEN UP!
IT'S THE POLICE!!
RAP
RAP
RAP
YES!
YUKI! SWITCH PLACES QUICKLY!
HUAA

W-WHAT IS IT?
KCHAK
PLEASE ALLOW US AN AUDIENCE WITH HIM.
WE'RE FROM THE FIFTH STATION, SECOND DISTRICT. WE'VE COME TO QUESTION MR. MIYAHARA REGARDING *SYURA YUKI HIME*, ABOUT WHOM HE'S CURRENTLY WRITING.
Y-YES.


PLEASE EXCUSE OUR INTRUSION.
WHETHER YOU'RE FROM THE POLICE OR NOT, I'M WAY TOO BUSY.
GLOWER

WORD GROWS THAT YOUR NOVEL IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY AND THAT A MURDERER NAMED *SYURA YUKI* EXISTS FOR REAL.
YES, IT'S REGARDING *SYURA YUKI HIME*, ABOUT WHOM YOU'RE WRITING IN THE NEWSPAPER.
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT! I HAVE A DEADLINE TO MAKE.
!
I APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR TROUBLE, BUT YOU MUST COME AND SORT OUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER. PLEASE ACCOMPANY US TO THE FIFTH STATION.
WHAT A STRANGE THING TO SAY. IT WAS ONLY ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO I EXPLAINED AT THE SEVENTH STATION OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT THAT *SYURA YUKI* IS MY OWN CREATION INSPIRED BY AN OLD RECORD I USE AS A REFERENCE.

BESIDES, POLICE OFFICERS ARE POLITE AND WILL NEVER PLACE THEIR SABERS ON THEIR LEFT AS THEY SIT! WHAT DO YOU WANT, YOU IMPOSTERS?!
BA
AYAHH


WHO OTHER THAN THE POLICE WOULD STORM IN HERE ABOUT MY *SYURA YUKI* NOVEL?
SO YOU'VE REVEALED YOUR TRUE NATURE AT LAST. WHO ARE YOU, YOU BASTARDS? BUT I DON'T NEED TO ASK. I ALREADY KNOW.
WHAT?!
HEH HEH, YOU FINALLY BIT THE BAIT! YOU BLOCKHEADED MORONS, LISTEN CAREFULLY.
I BET YOU'RE EITHER WITH GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO OR HANZO TAKEMURA.

HA HA HA...
HA HA HA...
HEH HEH HEH HEH
I'M WRITING THAT NOVEL TO LURE YOU OUT AND HELP SYURA TAKE HER REVENGE!
HEE HEE HEE.
...?
...?
WE'RE THE REMNANTS OF KANTO SENRYOKAI. SYURA YUKI KILLED OUR OYABUNS AND ANIKI.
WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH TSUKAMOTO OR TAKEMURA.
YOU STUPID BASTARD, YOU GAVE UP THE TRUTH WITHOUT US WRINGING IT OUT OF YOU. HEH HEH HEH.

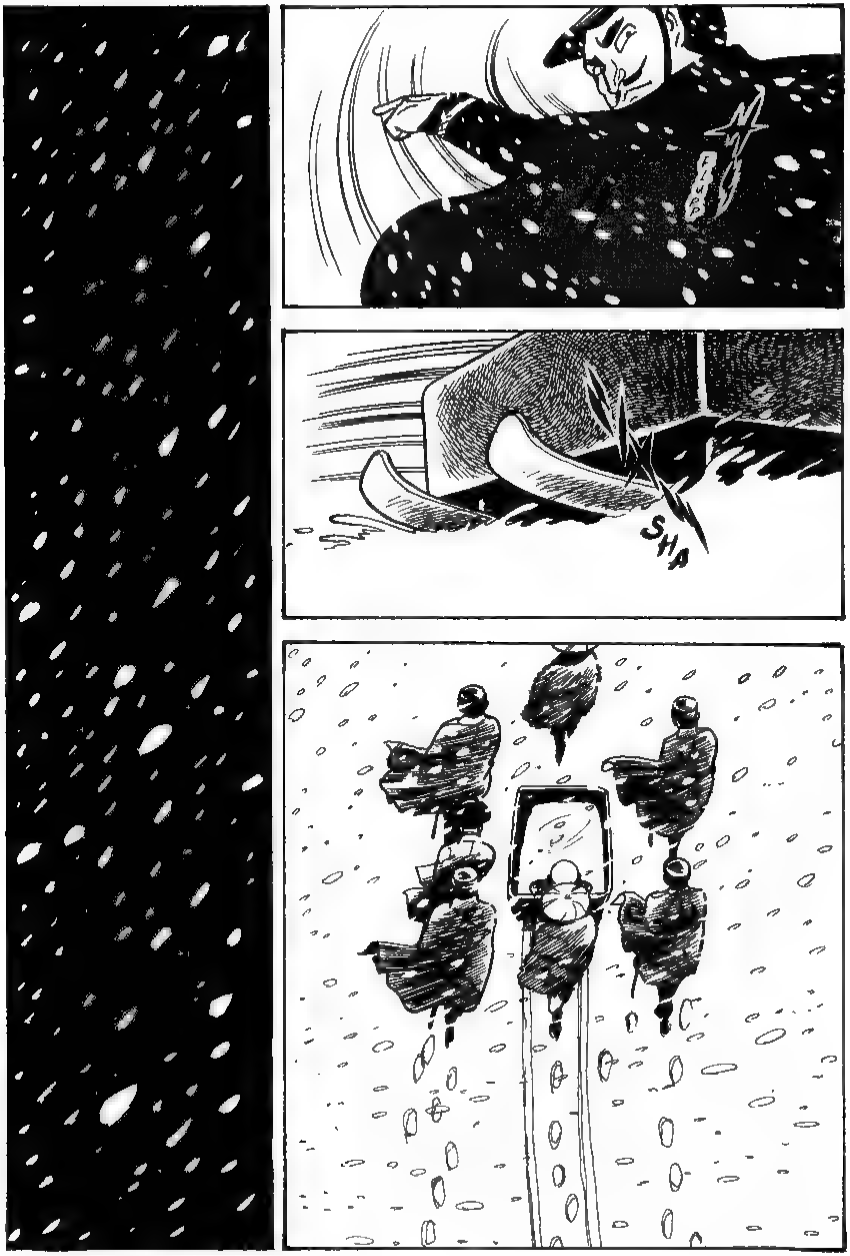
WHAT?
LOOK, YOU WROTE ABOUT IT, BASTARD!
O-OH NO. I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS. HOW STUPID OF ME!
YOU GOT THAT, GRAMPS?
WE'RE GOING TO USE YOU AS A DECOY TO LURE SYURA YUKI OUT. WITHOUT OFFERING HER HEAD TO OUR OYABUN'S GRAVE, WE CAN'T SHOW OUR FACES ANYWHERE.
SYURA YUKI MIGHT BE HIDING SOMEWHERE INSIDE. SEARCH THE HOUSE.
YOU'LL COME WITH US.

YOU HAG, GET UN-DRESSED.
W-WHY?
TA
TA
TA
SYURA YUKI IS GOOD AT DISGUISING HERSELF. THAT'S WHAT THIS WRITER HERE SAYS IN THE NOVEL. I DOUBT YOU'RE HER, BUT I CAN'T LET ANYTHING SLIP.
GET UN-DRESSED!

TH-THUMP
HEH HEH HEH. THAT'S ENOUGH. PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON.
SO LONG AS WE HAVE THE WRITER, SHE'LL SHOW UP.
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE.

YOU'RE GONNA COME WITH US. YOU WON'T OBJECT TO THAT, WILL YOU?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO TO ME?
IF YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ME, YOU TAKE OTOKI TOO.
I-I'M OLD. I NEED SOMEONE WHO'D LOOK AFTER ME.
WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME OLD FART YOU ARE! ALL RIGHT. JUST HURRY UP AND GET READY.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
EX- EXCUSE ME...
GEEZ.
L-LET ME USE THE BATHROOM. PLEASE.
KA KAT
SU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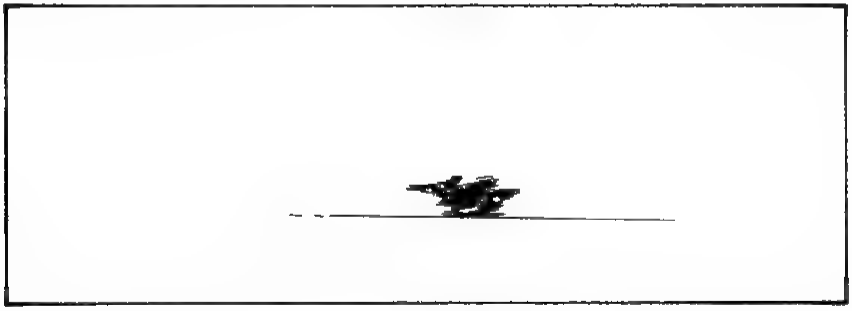
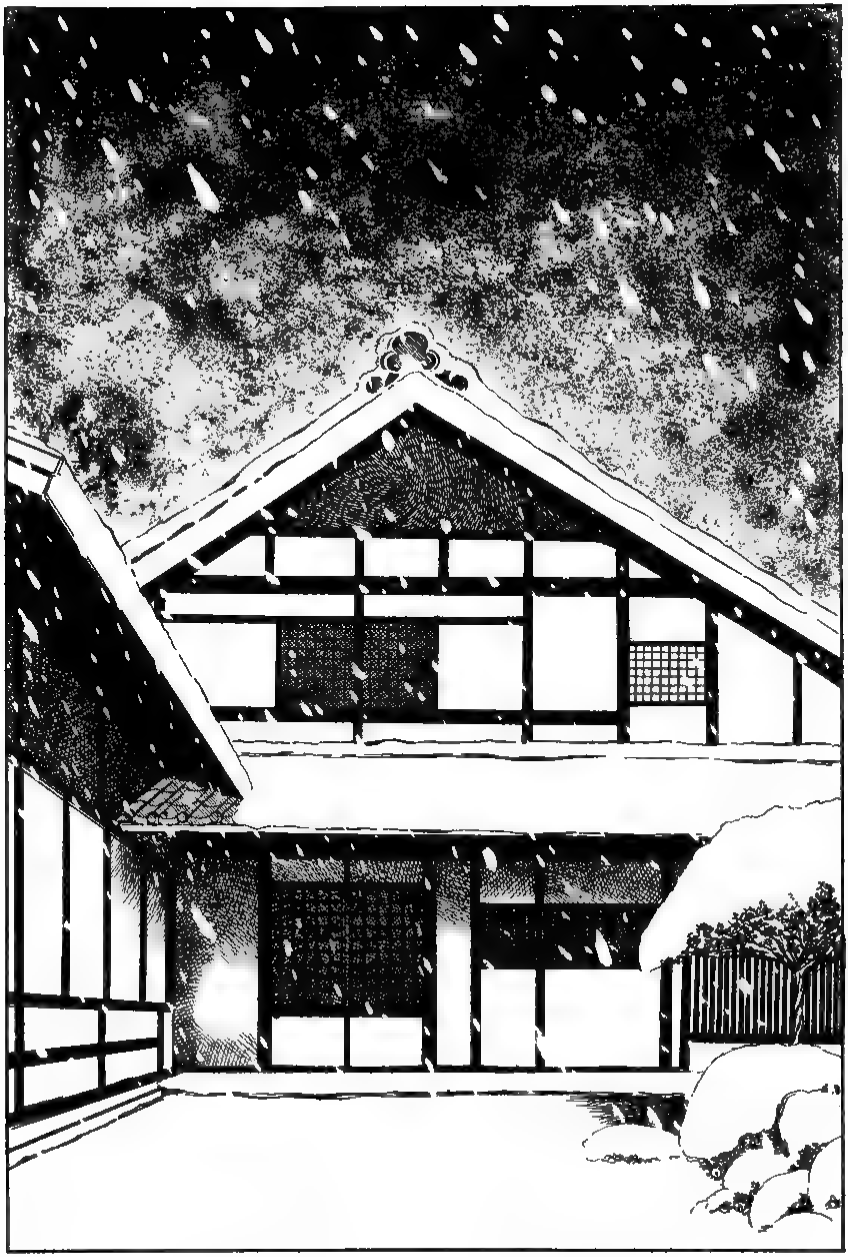
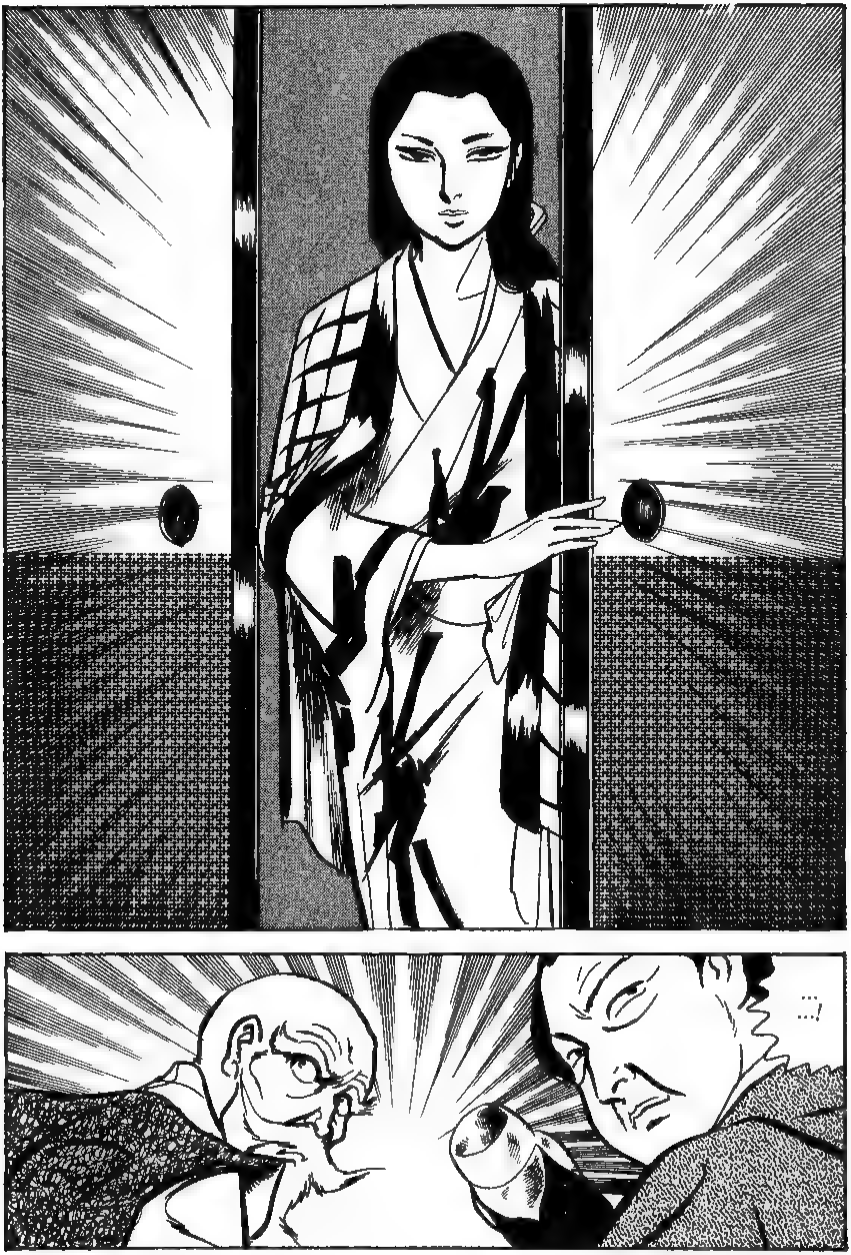


BWAFF

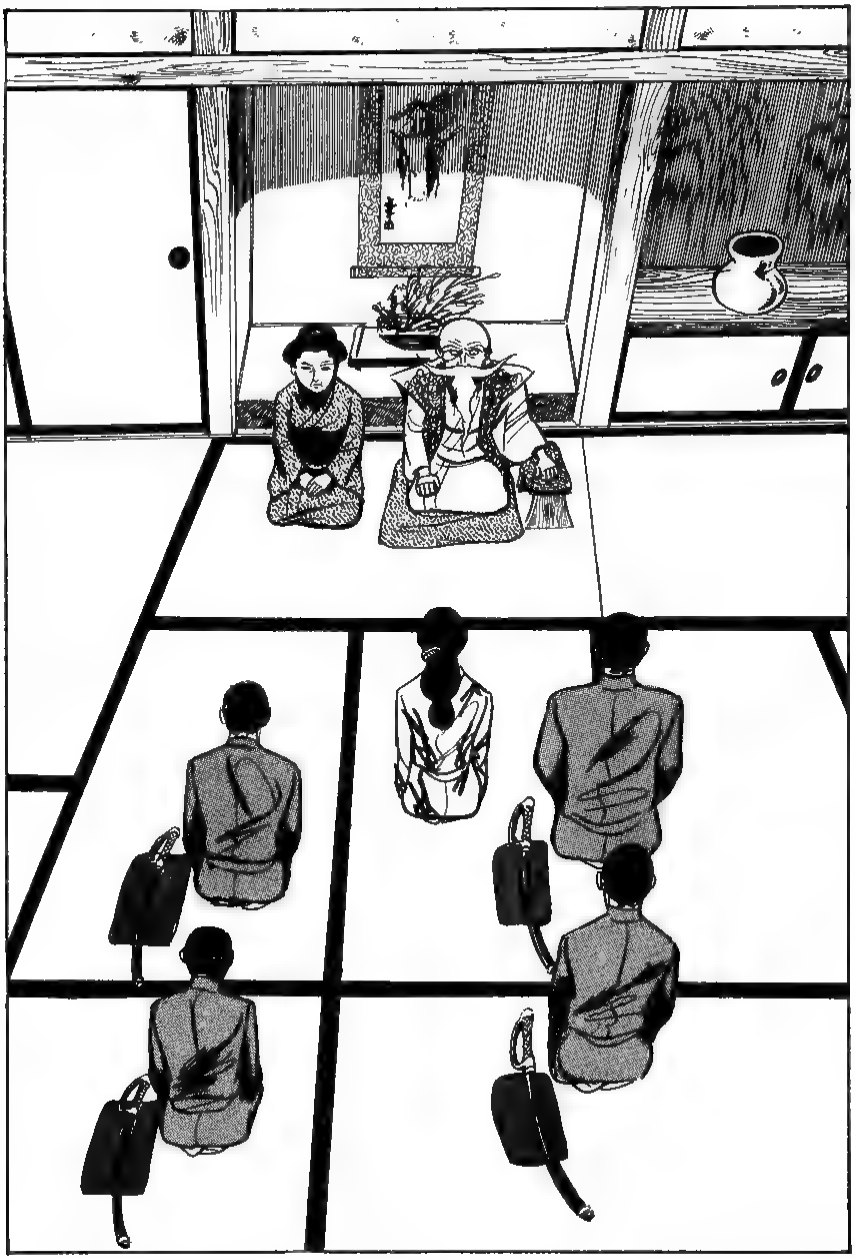


SHUT UP!
WHERE ARE WE?
WHY'RE YOU BRINGING THAT WET UMBRELLA INSIDE, YOU HAG!
CAN'T YOU TELL THE VALUE OF IT?

S-SOME HORSE BARN?! YOU OLD BASTARD!
HOW CAN SHE LEAVE HER PRECIOUS HEIRLOOM UNATTENDED IN SOME HORSE BARN?
WOMEN CARE ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.
WHAT CAN A PLACE INHABITED BY LIKES OF YOU BE OTHER THAN A SHACK OF FOOLS? HMPH! YOU'RE THE SCUM OF THE FOOLS.
YOU *YAKUZA* ARE FOOLS AND THE SCUM OF THE EARTH.
YOU MEAN IT'S A DEER'S SHACK, THEN? HORSE AND DEER KANJI MAKE THE WORD "FOOL." IT'S A SHACK OF FOOLS OR A PIGPEN.
STOP THAT!
YOU BAST-ARD!

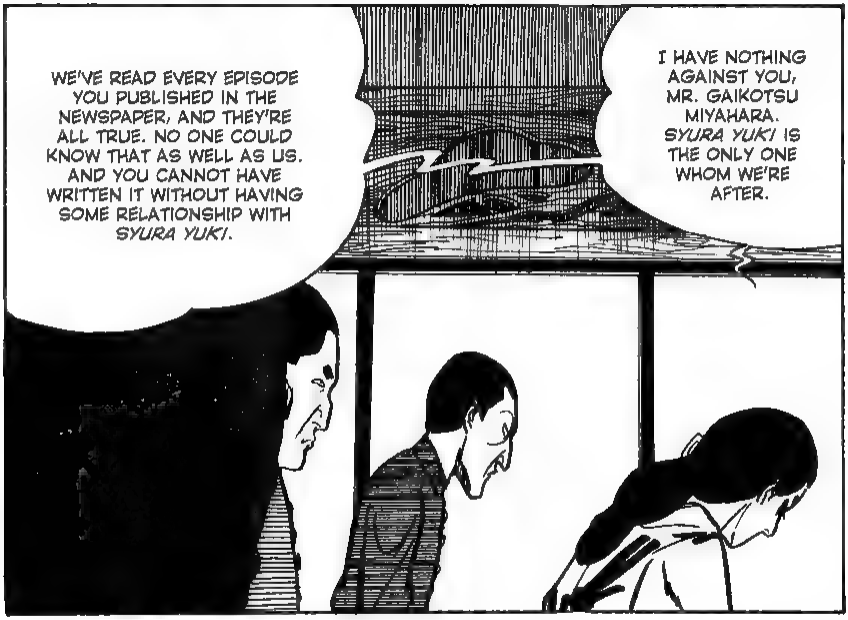


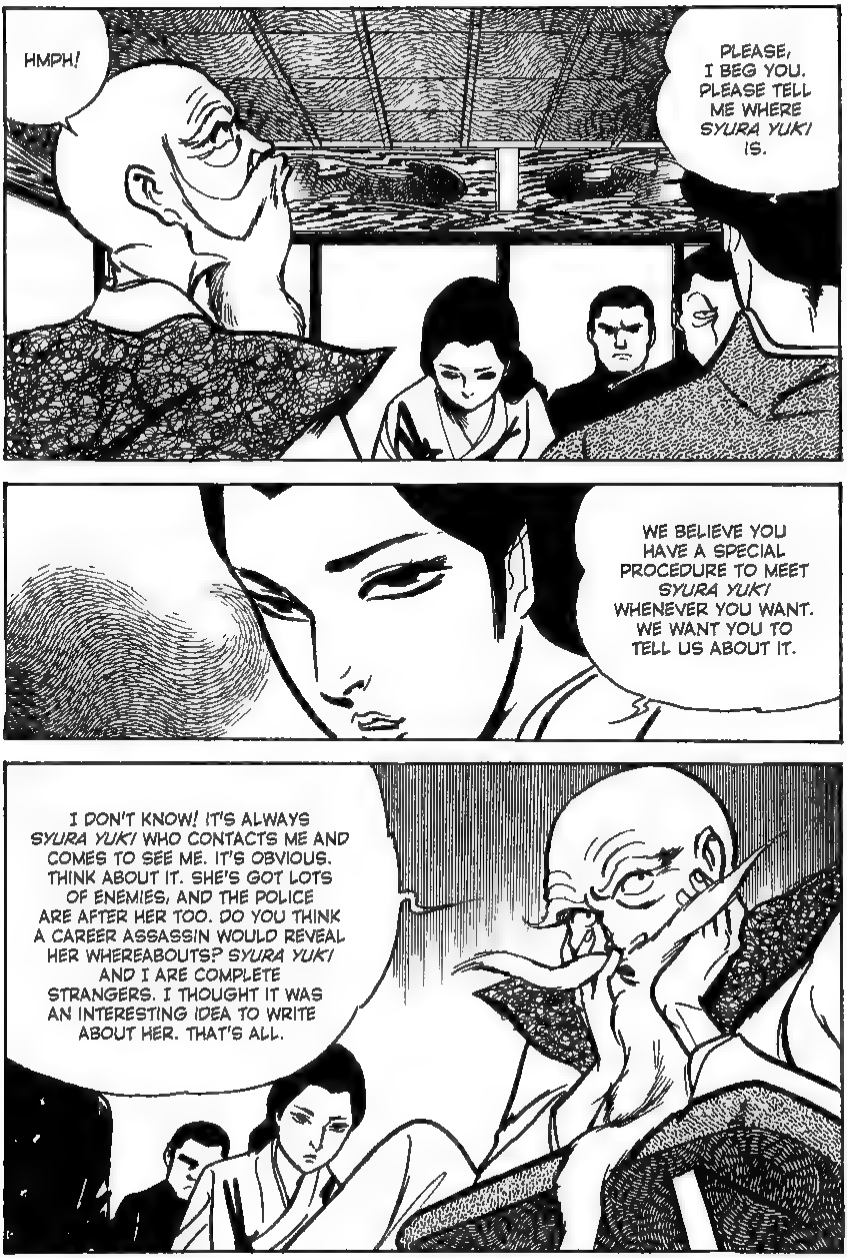
WHO ARE YOU?
IT'S TOO COLD OUT HERE, SO PLEASE COME IN THIS WAY FIRST.
MR. MIYAHARA, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.



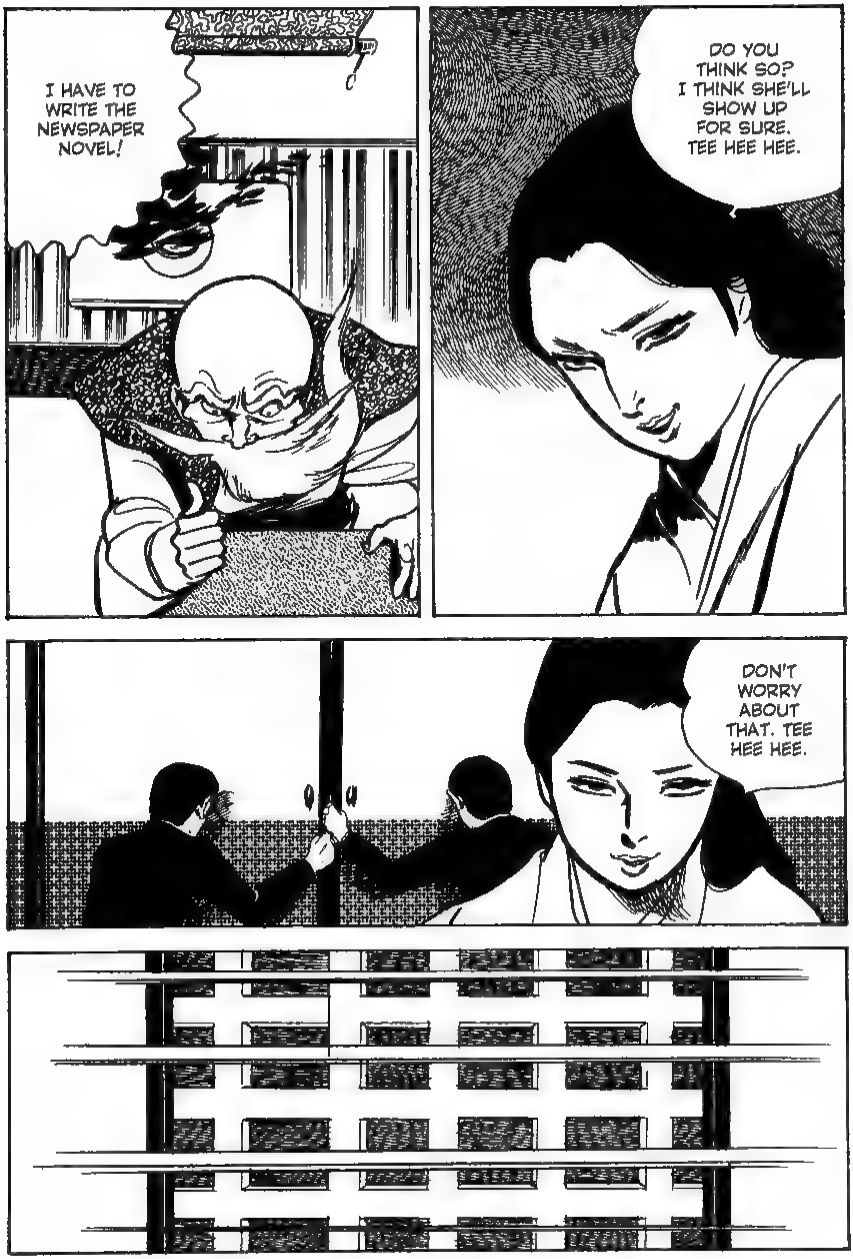
WHO IS THIS WOMAN?
YES, I CHECKED HER NAKED.
ARE YOU SURE OF THAT?
HIS MAID.

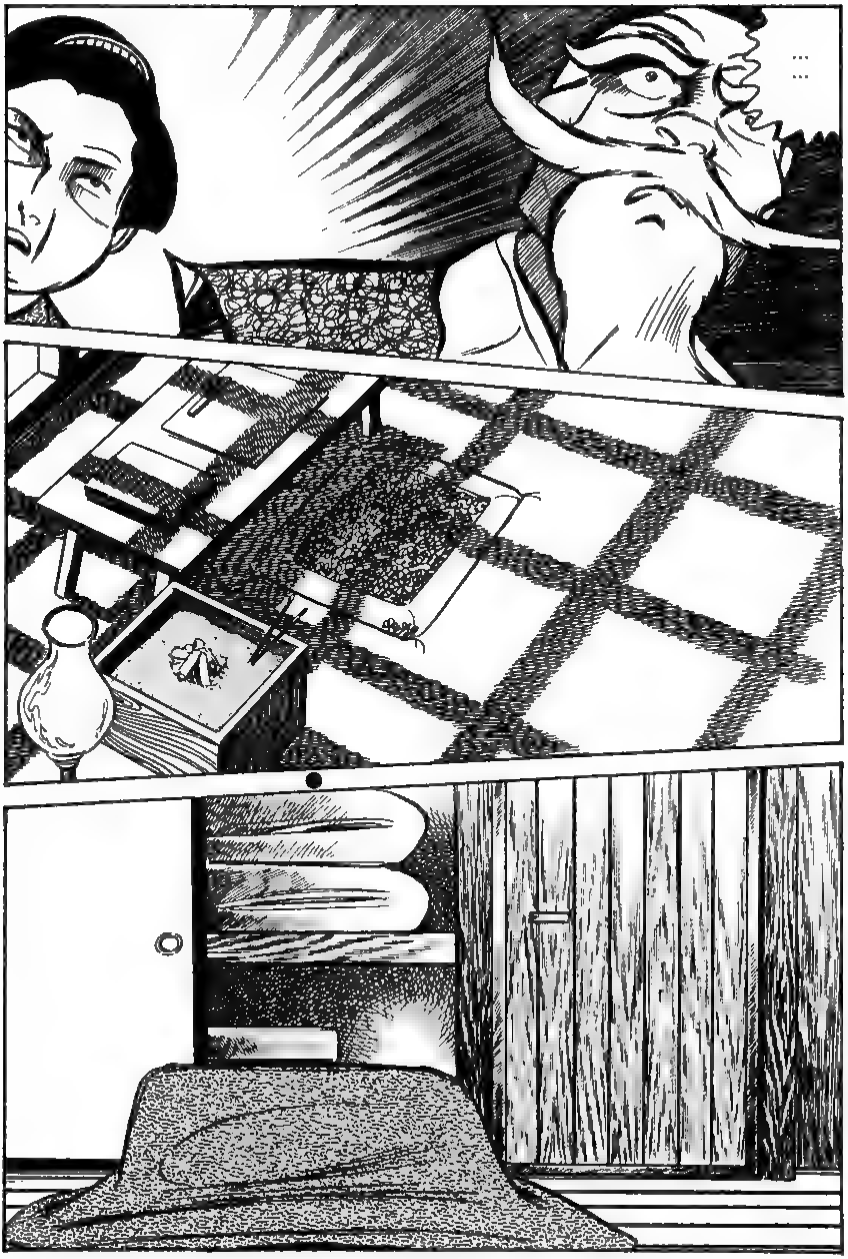
SENRYOKAI WAS LEAD BY MY HUSBAND. EVEN THOUGH I AM A WOMAN, I MUST TAKE MY REVENGE ACCORDING TO YAKUZA TRADITIONS.
I AM THE LAST OF THE KANTO SENRYOKAI, OSEI, THE VIPER.

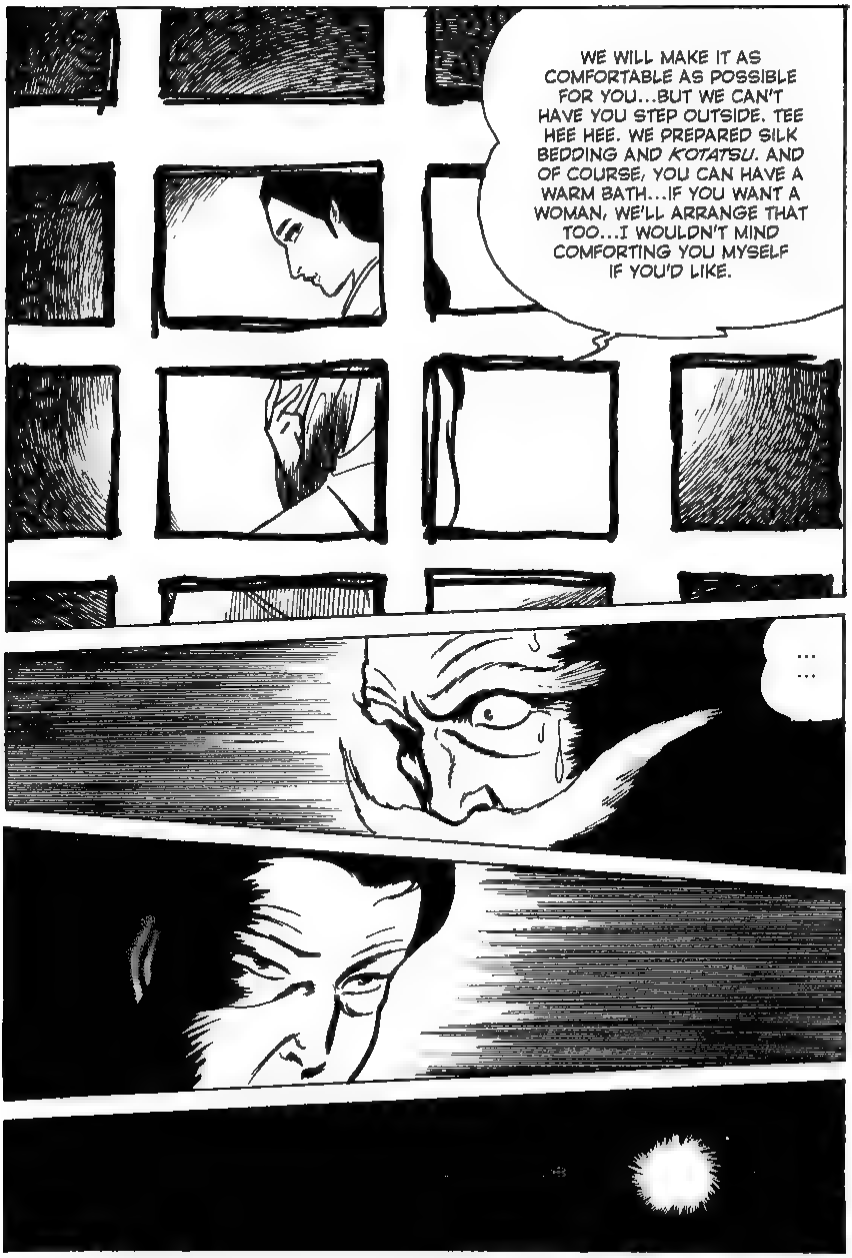

WE'VE READ EVERY EPISODE YOU PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER, AND THEY'RE ALL TRUE. NO ONE COULD KNOW THAT AS WELL AS US. AND YOU CANNOT HAVE WRITTEN IT WITHOUT HAVING SOME RELATIONSHIP WITH SYURA YUKI.
I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST YOU, MR. GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA. SYURA YUKI IS THE ONLY ONE WHOM WE'RE AFTER.

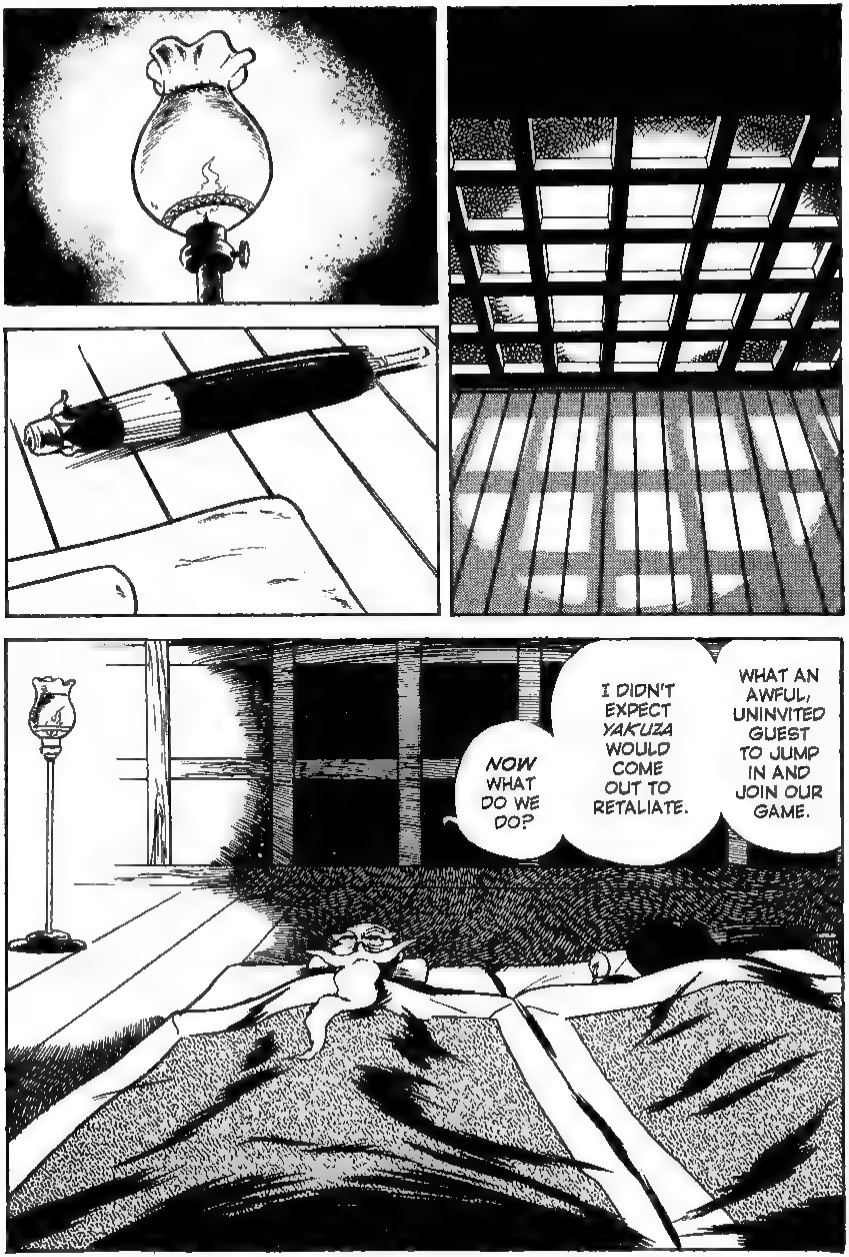

HMPH!
PLEASE, I BEG YOU. PLEASE TELL ME WHERE *SYURA YUKI* IS.
WE BELIEVE YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PROCEDURE TO MEET *SYURA YUKI* WHENEVER YOU WANT. WE WANT YOU TO TELL US ABOUT IT.
I DON'T KNOW! IT'S ALWAYS *SYURA YUKI* WHO CONTACTS ME AND COMES TO SEE ME. IT'S OBVIOUS. THINK ABOUT IT. SHE'S GOT LOTS OF ENEMIES, AND THE POLICE ARE AFTER HER TOO. DO YOU THINK A CAREER ASSASSIN WOULD REVEAL HER WHEREABOUTS? *SYURA YUKI* AND I ARE COMPLETE STRANGERS. I THOUGHT IT WAS AN INTERESTING IDEA TO WRITE ABOUT HER. THAT'S ALL.

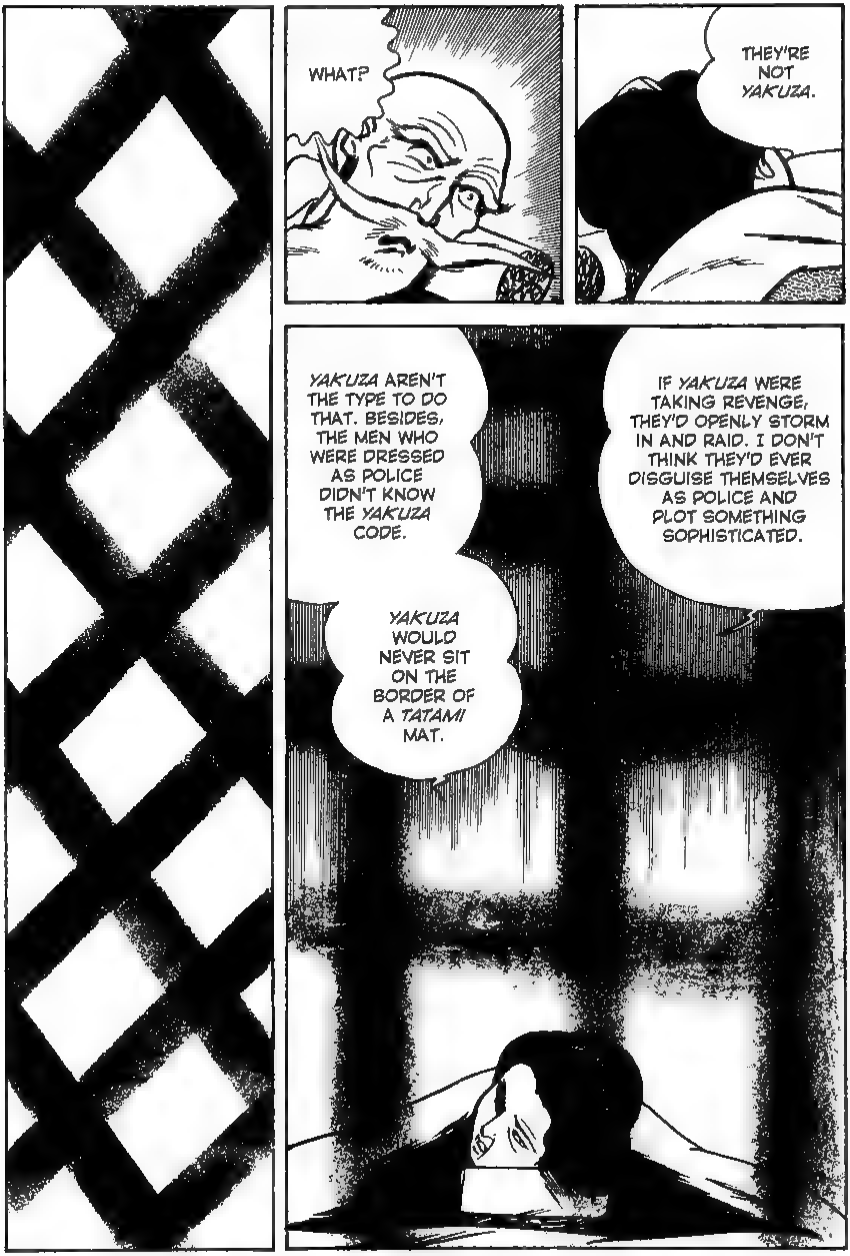
DAMN YOU!
HEE HEE, HOW TRULY STUPID YAKUZA ARE!
WE'LL PLACE A LETTER FOR SYURA YUKI ON YOUR DESK AT YOUR HOUSE AND MAKE HER COME ALONE TO FETCH YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL US IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. I ONLY ASKED BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO INCONVENIENCE YOU BY DETAINING YOU HERE. IF YOU WON'T TELL US, YOU'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO STAY HERE UNTIL SYURA YUKI SHOWS UP.
WHY WILL SYURA YUKI COME TO FETCH ME? THERE'S NO REASON FOR HER TO RISK SUCH DANGER.
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING YOU'RE A STUPID IDIOT!

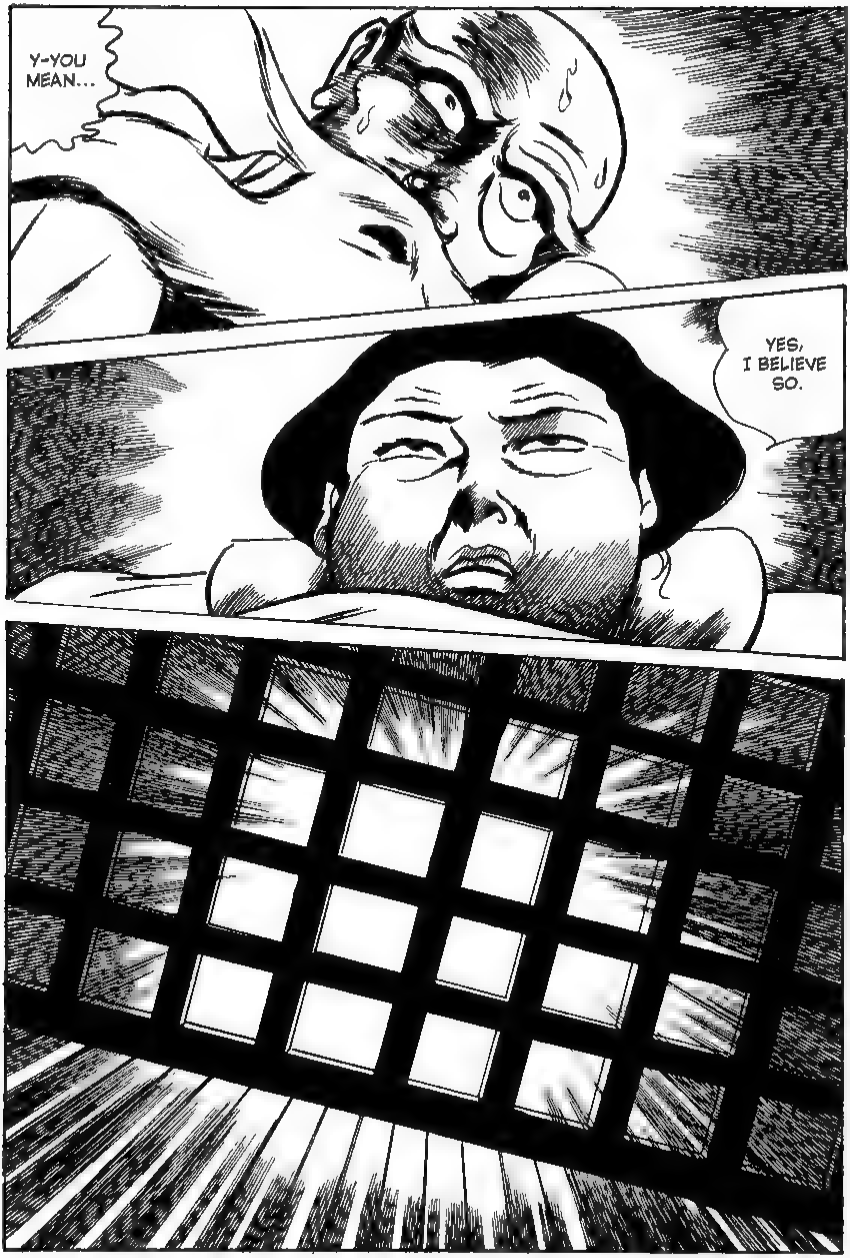

I HAVE TO WRITE THE NEWSPAPER NOVEL!
DO YOU THINK SO? I THINK SHE'LL SHOW UP FOR SURE. TEE HEE HEE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. TEE HEE HEE.

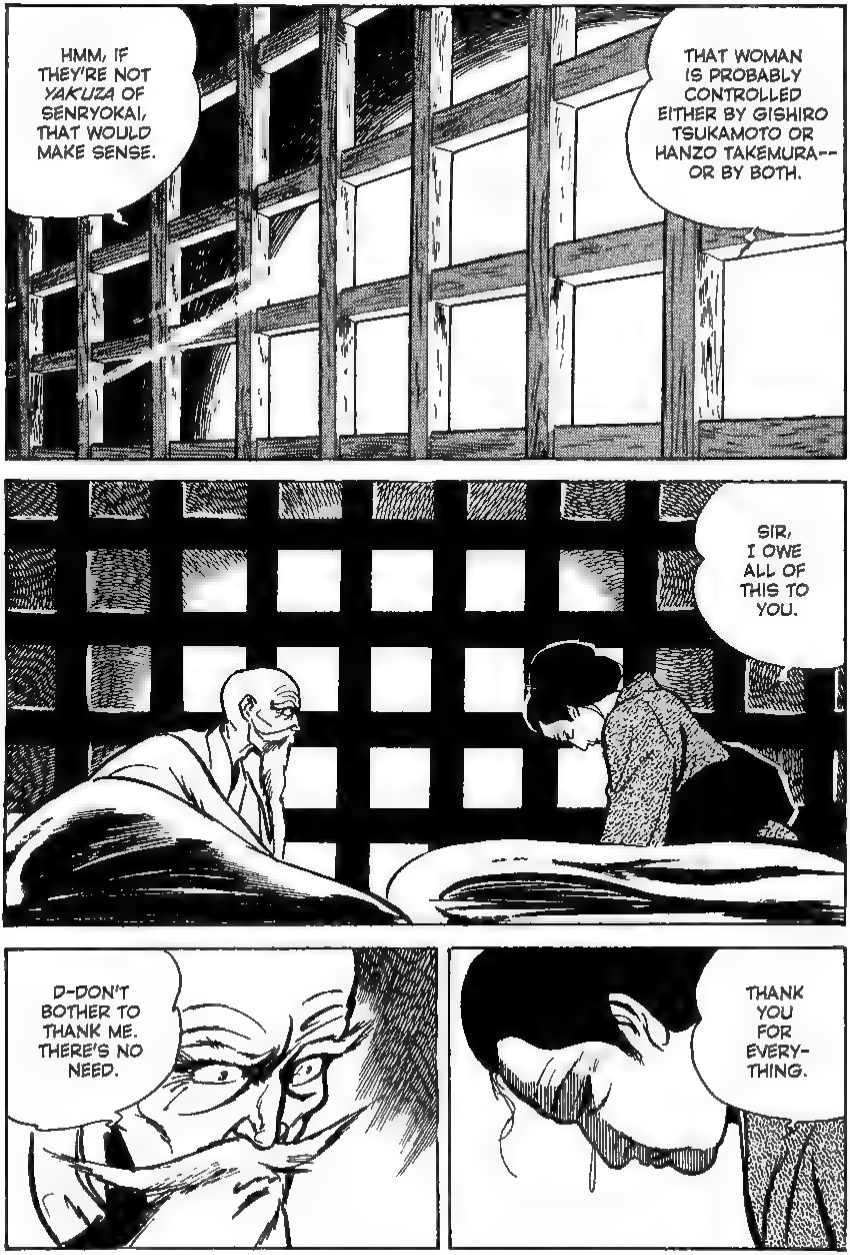



WE WILL MAKE IT AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE FOR YOU...BUT WE CAN'T HAVE YOU STEP OUTSIDE. TEE HEE HEE. WE PREPARED SILK BEDDING AND *KOTATSU*. AND OF COURSE, YOU CAN HAVE A WARM BATH...IF YOU WANT A WOMAN, WE'LL ARRANGE THAT TOO...I WOULDN'T MIND COMFORTING YOU MYSELF IF YOU'D LIKE.
...
...

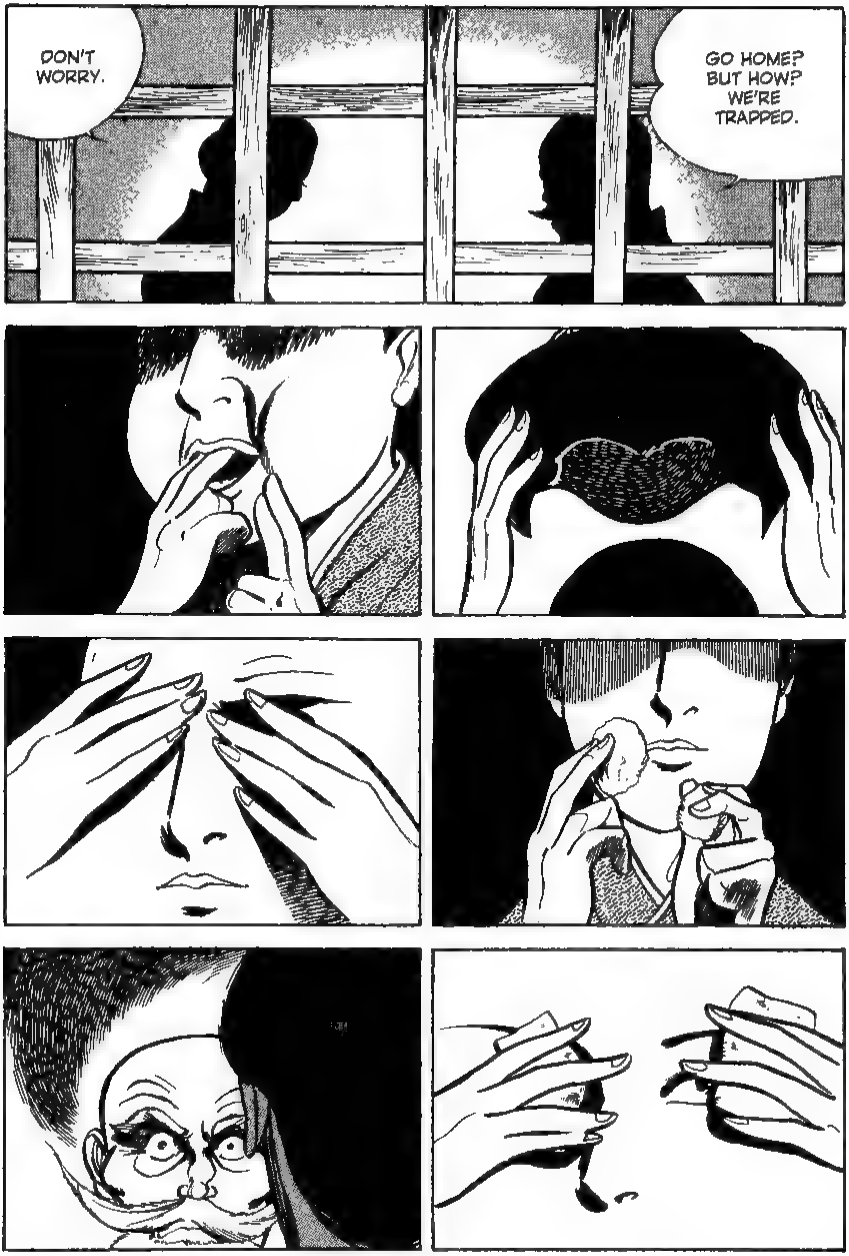

NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
I DIDN'T EXPECT YAKUZA WOULD COME OUT TO RETALIATE.
WHAT AN AWFUL, UNINVITED GUEST TO JUMP IN AND JOIN OUR GAME.

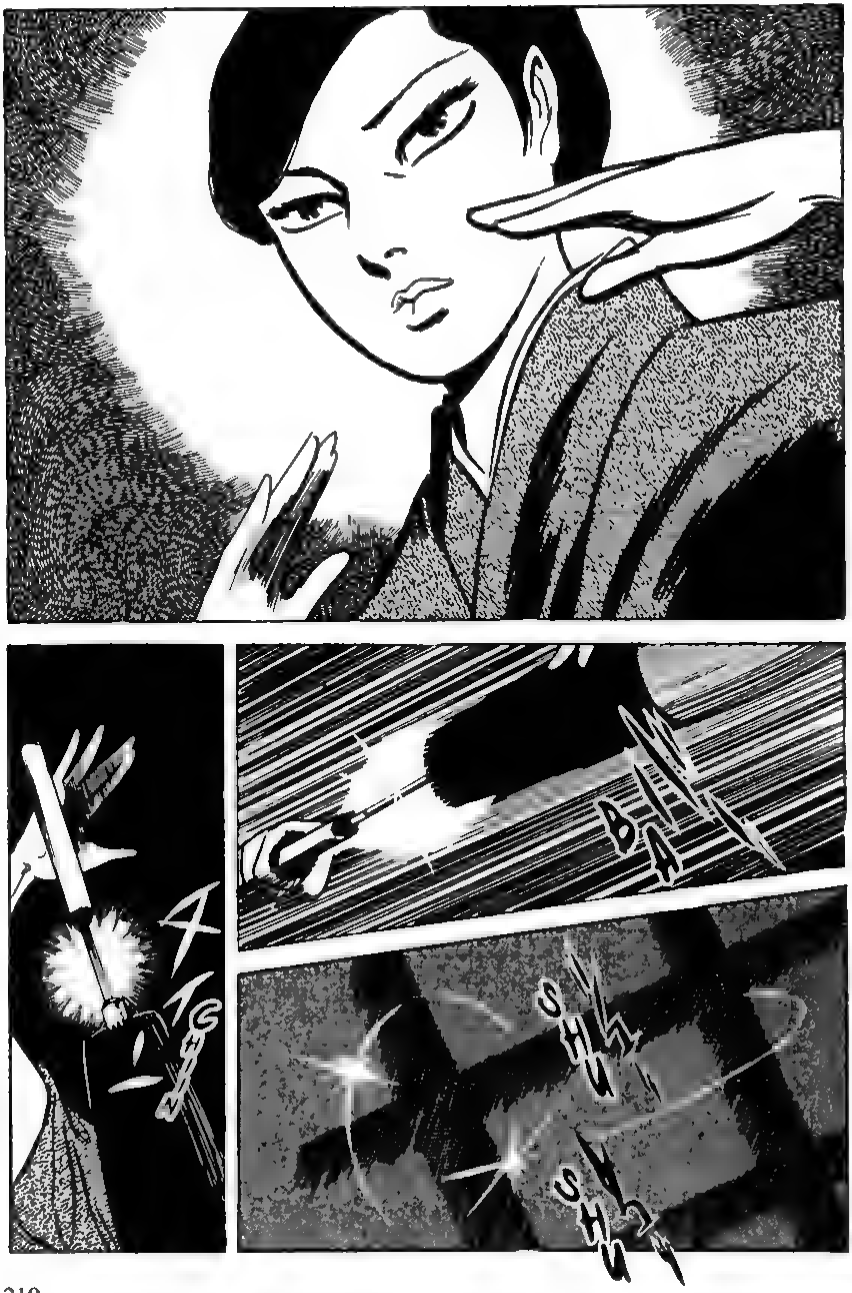

WHAT?
THEY'RE NOT YAKUZA.
YAKUZA AREN'T THE TYPE TO DO THAT. BESIDES, THE MEN WHO WERE DRESSED AS POLICE DIDN'T KNOW THE YAKUZA CODE.
IF YAKUZA WERE TAKING REVENGE, THEY'D OPENLY STORM IN AND RAID. I DON'T THINK THEY'D EVER DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS POLICE AND PLOT SOMETHING SOPHISTICATED.
YAKUZA WOULD NEVER SIT ON THE BORDER OF A TATAMI MAT.

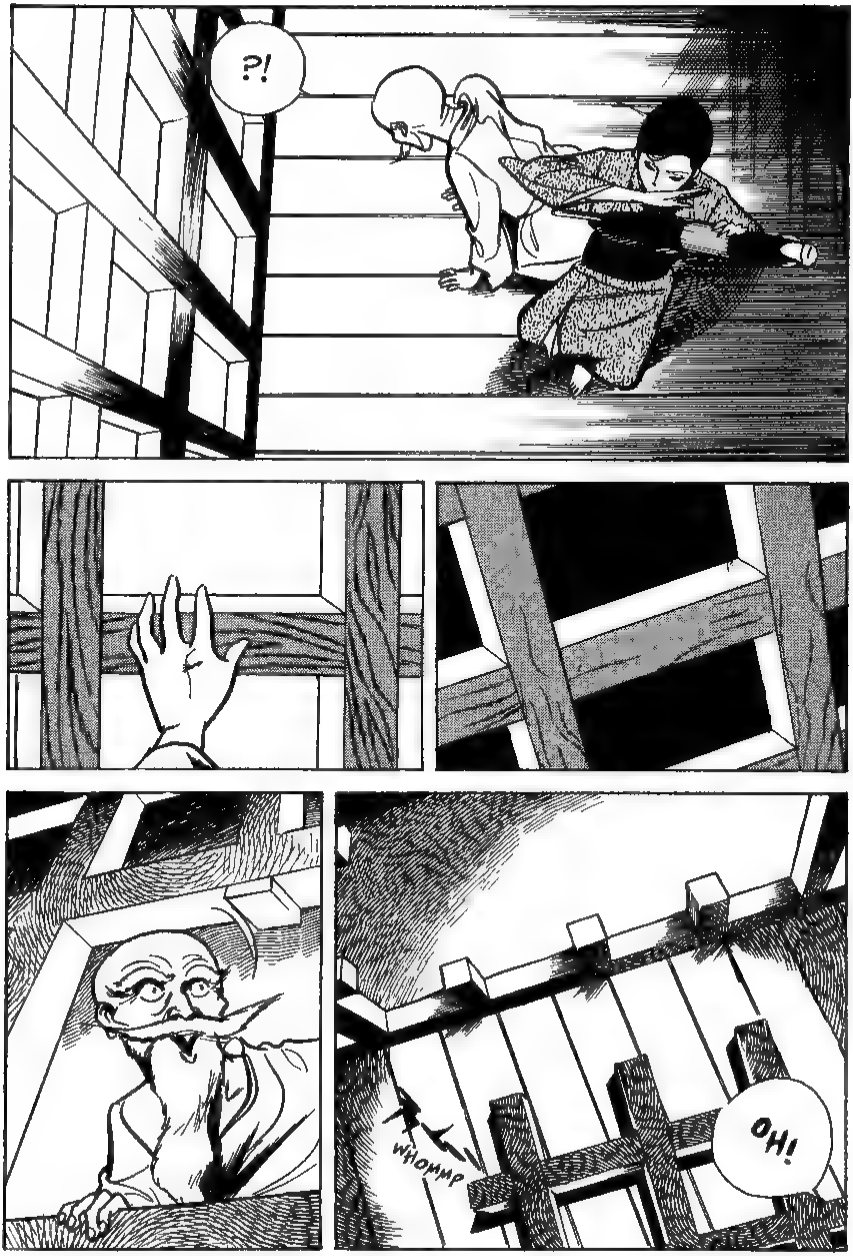

Y-YOU MEAN...
YES, I BELIEVE SO.


HMM, IF THEY'RE NOT YAKUZA OF SENRYOKAI, THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
THAT WOMAN IS PROBABLY CONTROLLED EITHER BY GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO OR HANZO TAKEMURA--OR BY BOTH.
SIR, I OWE ALL OF THIS TO YOU.
D-DON'T BOTHER TO THANK ME. THERE'S NO NEED.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

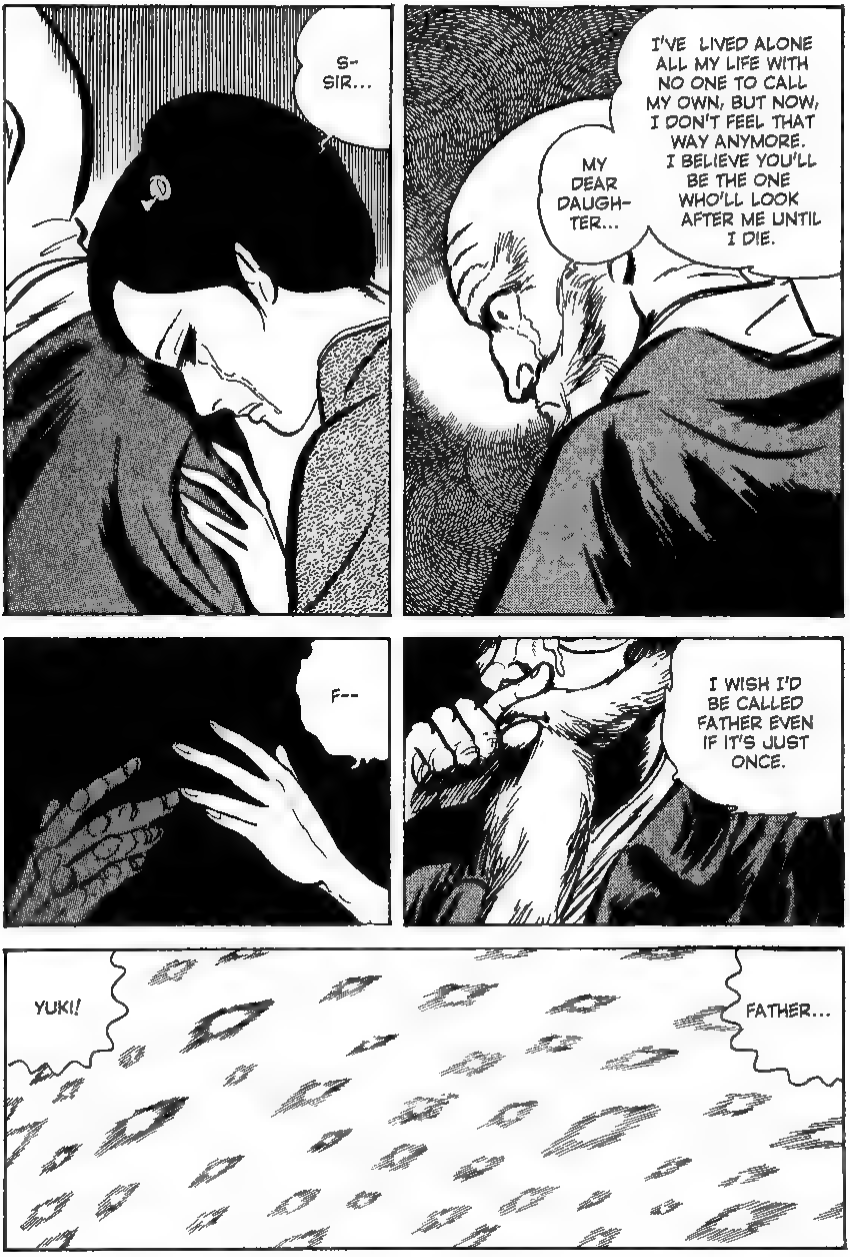
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM. PLEASE LEAVE THE REST UP TO ME.
BESIDES, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? EVEN THOUGH YOU FINALLY FOUND YOUR ENEMY, THE WAY THINGS ARE, YOU CAN'T DO SQUAT.
THEY WON'T BE SO EASY TO DEAL WITH. KNOWING THE MASTERY OF *SYURA YUKI*, THEY TOOK ME HOSTAGE HOPING TO LURE YOU OUT. I'M SURE THEY'RE PREPARED.
THEY MEAN TO USE YOU AS THEIR SHIELD WHEN THEY FIGHT ME. SO IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, THE REST WILL BE UP TO OUR FIGHTING SKILLS.
I'M SORRY TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE ALONE AT NIGHT IN THIS FREEZING SNOW.


DON'T WORRY.
GO HOME? BUT HOW? WE'RE TRAPPED.

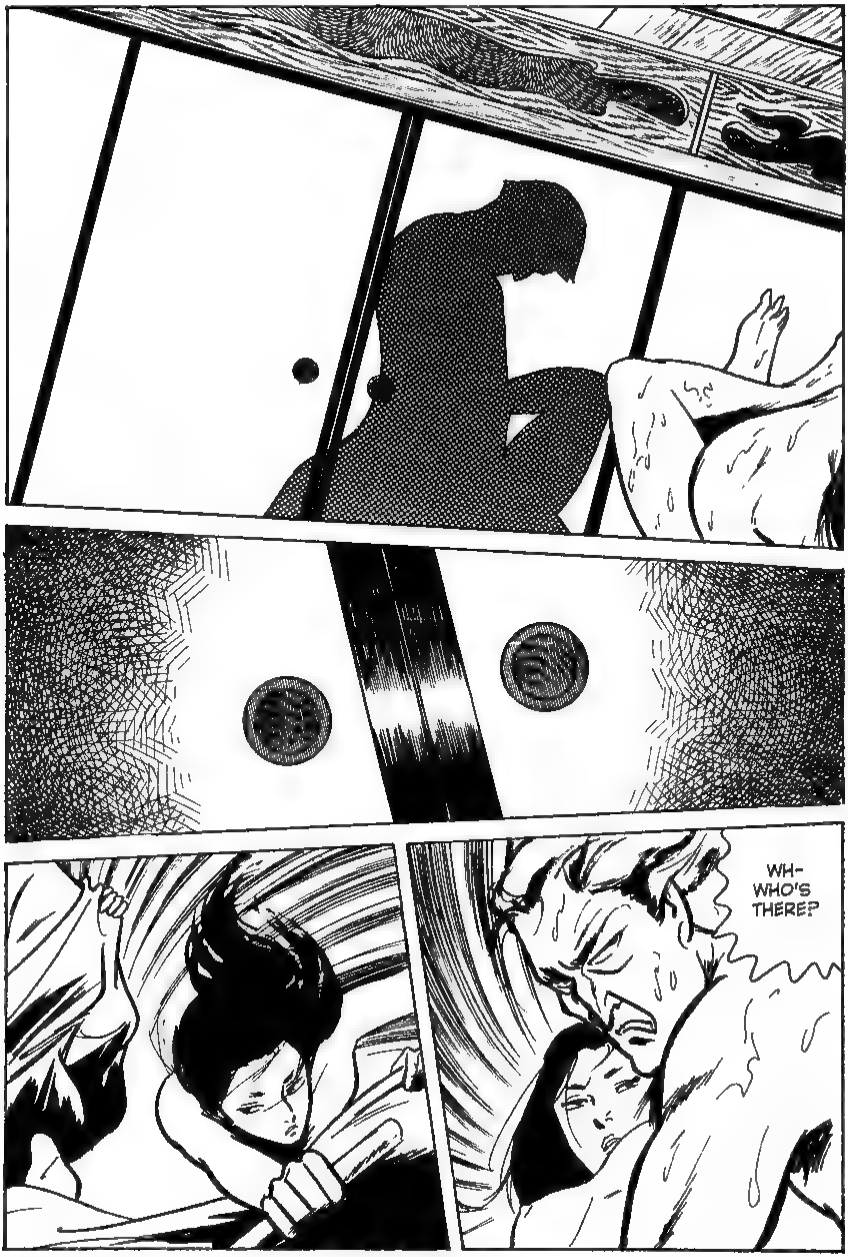

SHU
SHU

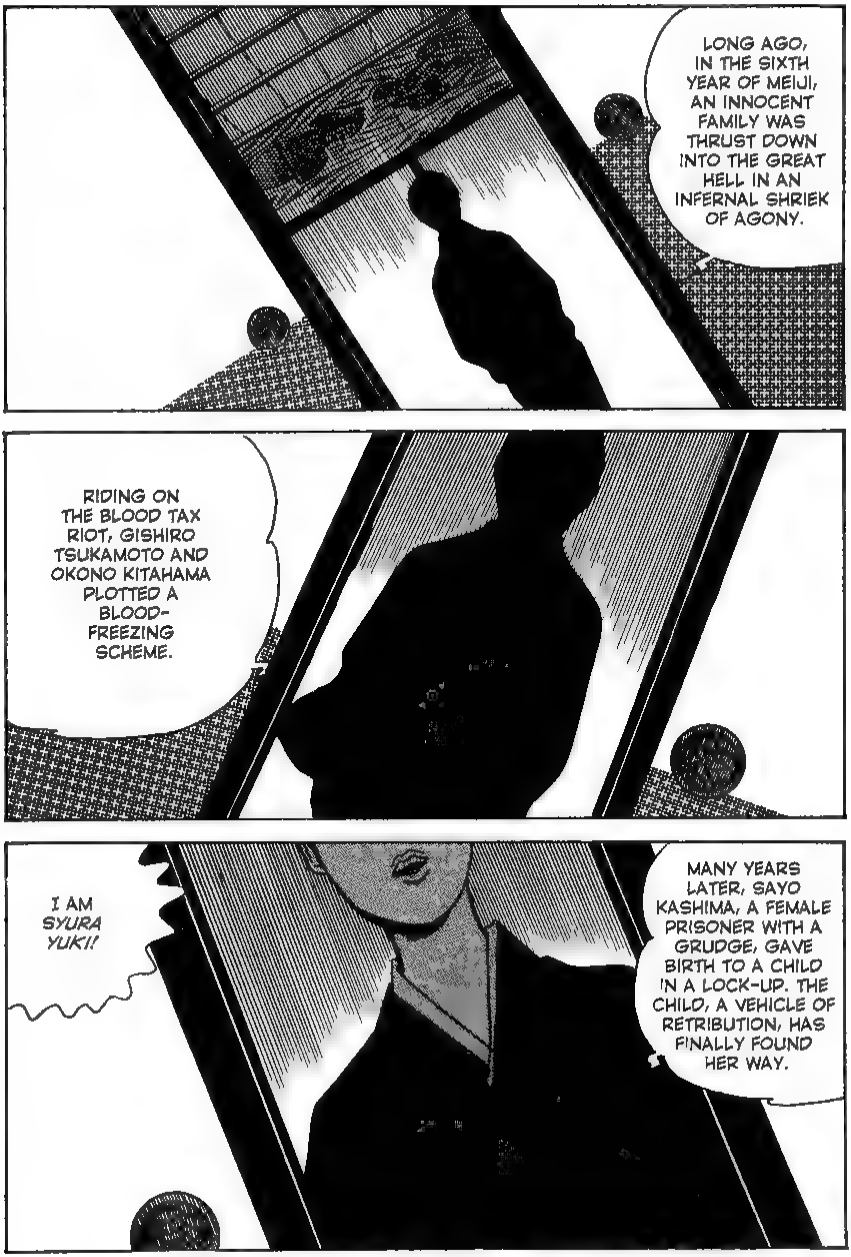

?!
WHOMMP
OH!

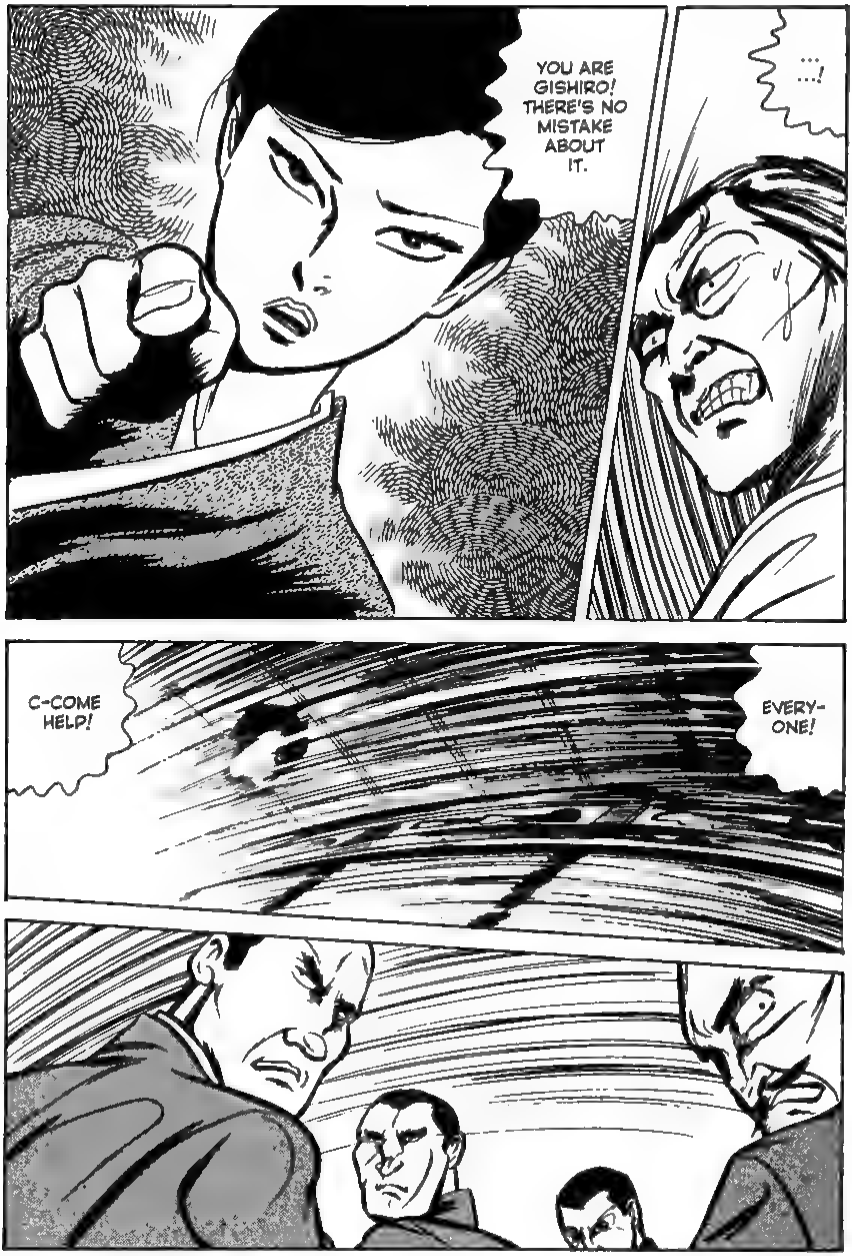
EVEN THOUGH I'M OLD, I CAN BE USEFUL STILL. DO YOU WANT ME TO LEND YOU A HAND?
THERE YOU GO, SIR.
DON'T WORRY. I WILL GO HOME ON MY OWN. YOU REALLY NEED NOT WORRY. BUT WHEN ALL IS OVER, YOU WILL COME HOME TOO. OKAY?
NO. PLEASE GO HOME. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU, SIR, I WON'T--
OH...
MY DEAR DAUGHTER.

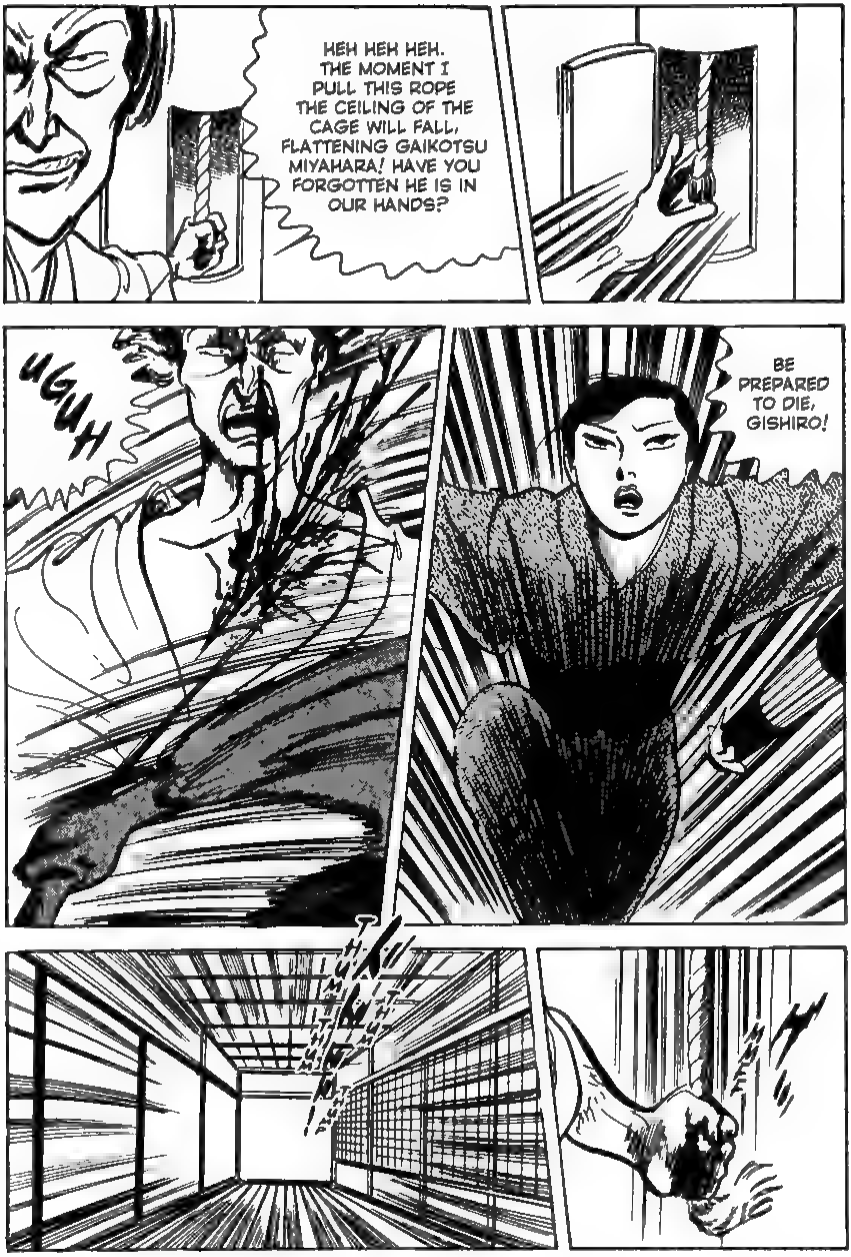

S-
SIR...
MY DEAR DAUGH-TER...
I'VE LIVED ALONE ALL MY LIFE WITH NO ONE TO CALL MY OWN, BUT NOW, I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY ANYMORE. I BELIEVE YOU'LL BE THE ONE WHO'LL LOOK AFTER ME UNTIL I DIE.
F--
I WISH I'D BE CALLED FATHER EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONCE.
YUKI!
FATHER...

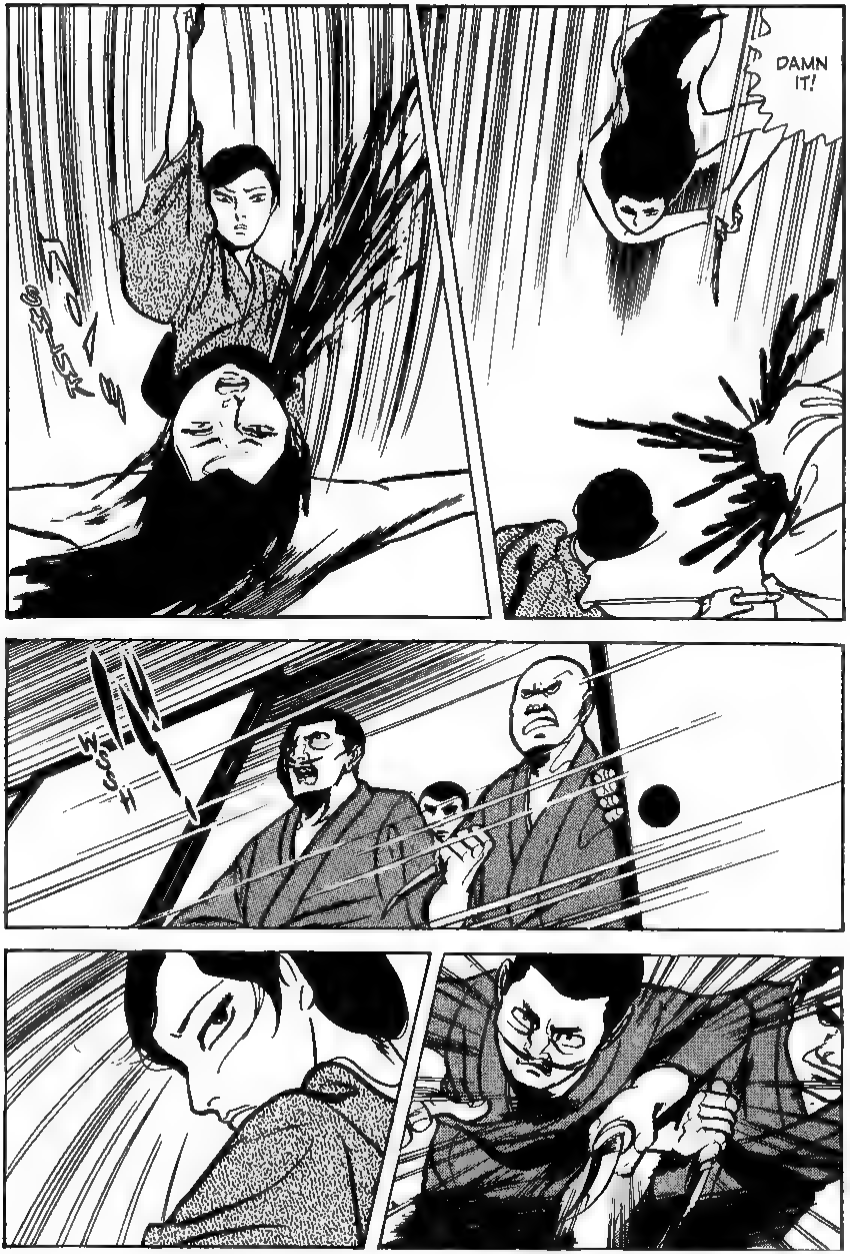
UH.
OOHH.
AAHH
UHH.
OOH...


WH-
WHO'S
THERE?

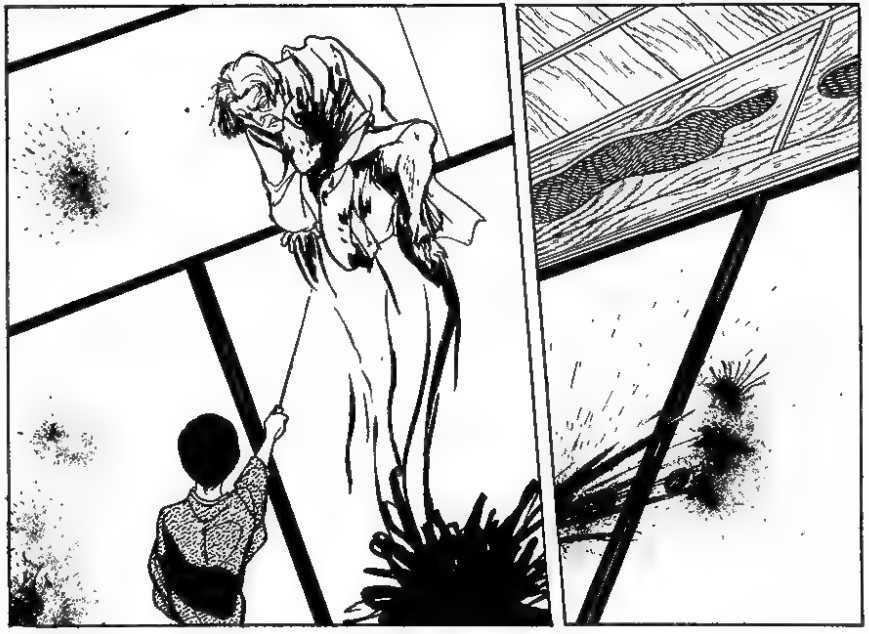

LONG AGO, IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF MEIJI, AN INNOCENT FAMILY WAS THRUST DOWN INTO THE GREAT HELL IN AN INFERNAL SHRIEK OF AGONY.
RIDING ON THE BLOOD TAX RIOT, GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO AND OKONO KITAHAMA PLOTTED A BLOOD-FREEZING SCHEME.
I AM SYURA YUKI!
MANY YEARS LATER, SAYO KASHIMA, A FEMALE PRISONER WITH A GRUDGE, GAVE BIRTH TO A CHILD IN A LOCK-UP. THE CHILD, A VEHICLE OF RETRIBUTION, HAS FINALLY FOUND HER WAY.


YOU ARE GISHIRO! THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.
...!
C-COME HELP!
EVERY-ONE!


HEH HEH HEH. THE MOMENT I PULL THIS ROPE THE CEILING OF THE CAGE WILL FALL, FLATTENING GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HE IS IN OUR HANDS?
UGUH
BE PREPARED TO DIE, GISHIRO!


DAMN IT!
SHISH
WASH

M-
MERCY...
DON'T
KNOW...
I-I'M NOT
LYING...
WHERE IS
HANZO
TAKEMURA?



AN ACCOUNT OF HOW GISHIRO STRIKES BACK / THE END

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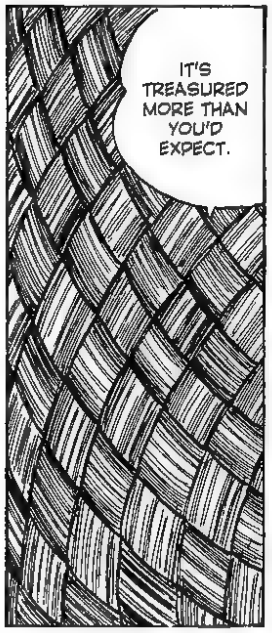
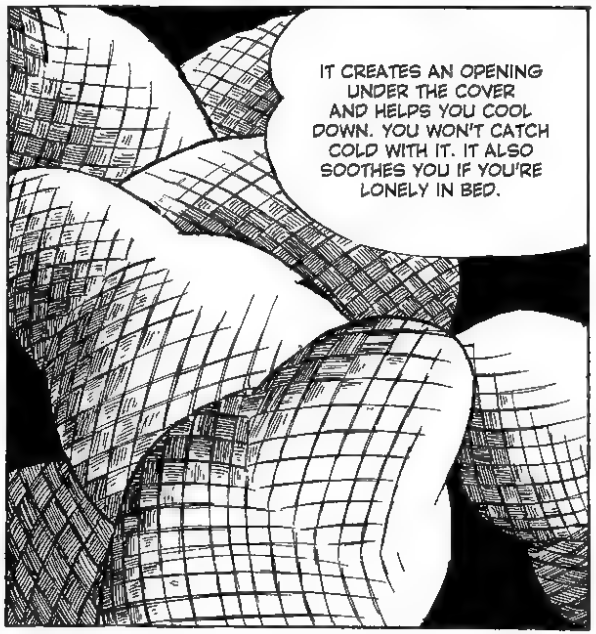
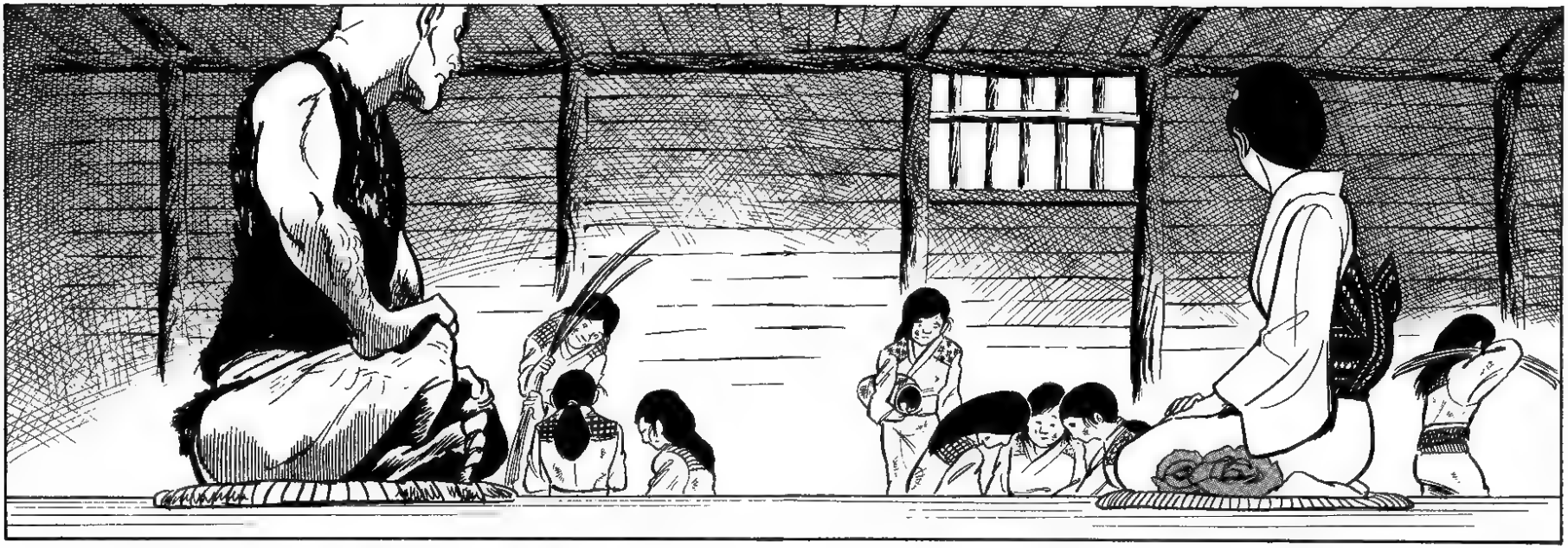
FINAL EPISODE
BAMBOO'S TEARS


IT'S TREASURED MORE THAN YOU'D EXPECT.


IT CREATES AN OPENING UNDER THE COVER AND HELPS YOU COOL DOWN. YOU WON'T CATCH COLD WITH IT. IT ALSO SOOTHES YOU IF YOU'RE LONELY IN BED.

IT'S CALLED AN EMBRACING BASKET OR BAMBOO LADY. WHAT YOU DO IS TO PUT IT UNDER YOUR COVERS AND HUG IT TO SLEEP DURING THE HOT SUMMER WHEN IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE.



HEY, ONCE YOU FINISH, BRING IT TO ME.

BECAUSE MEN AND WOMEN ARE CREATED TO BE ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER, THEY WANT TO HOLD EACH OTHER IN THEIR ARMS. THAT'S WHY BAMBOO LADIES ARE TREASURED.

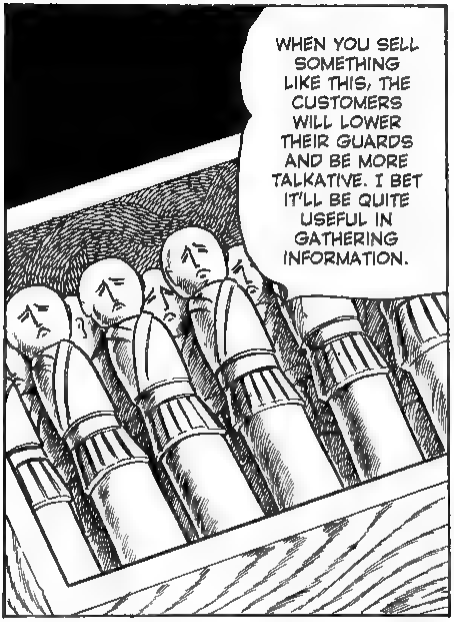
PUT IT UNDER THE COVER.
LEMME SEE.
THIS ONE WAS MADE IN HASTE, SO I CAN'T SAY IT'S GREAT, BUT IT'S NOT BAD.
I HEAR THAT HANZO TAKEMURA MAKES BAMBOO LADIES, SELLING THEM AS HE TRAVELS FROM PLACE TO PLACE.

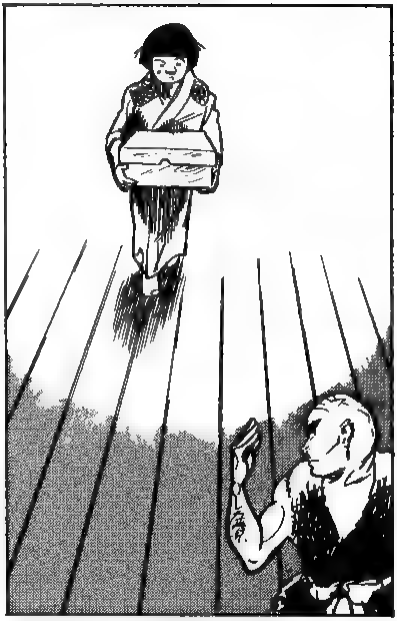
IT WAS HARD TO GET WIND OF HIM, BUT IF YOU VISIT TOWNS WITH HOT SPRINGS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HIS WHEREABOUTS SOONER OR LATER. HE LEAVES A TRAIL WITH BAMBOO LADIES AFTER ALL.
APPARENTLY, HIS BAMBOO LADIES FEEL SO NICE AND SNUG THAT HE CAN SELL ENOUGH TO LIVE ON. I MEAN, IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE HE FELL SO LOW THAT HE HAD TO START SELLING THEM.
HEY, BRING OVER THE CRYING RUNT.
NOW I THINK WE'VE FINALLY SATISFIED OUR DUTY TO YOU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

SHOW HER HOW IT'S USED.

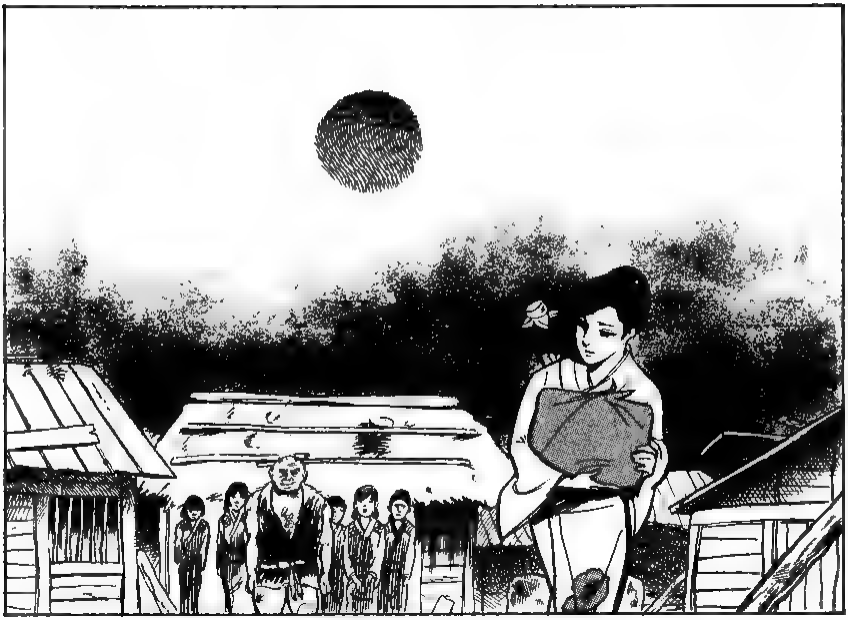
あ
UH
あ
OH
OH
あ

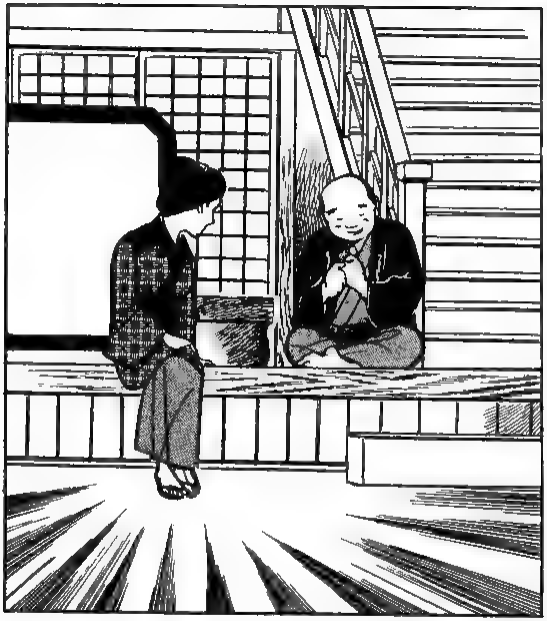
WHEN YOU VISIT A PLACE BAMBOO LADIES WERE SOLD, I THINK YOU'LL NEED SOMETHING TO SELL YOURSELF. THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT OF GIVING YOU THESE CRYING RUNTS AS OUR PARTING GIFT. I ORDERED THEM FROM THE MAKER.


WHEN YOU SELL SOMETHING LIKE THIS, THE CUSTOMERS WILL LOWER THEIR GUARDS AND BE MORE TALKATIVE. I BET IT'LL BE QUITE USEFUL IN GATHERING INFORMATION.

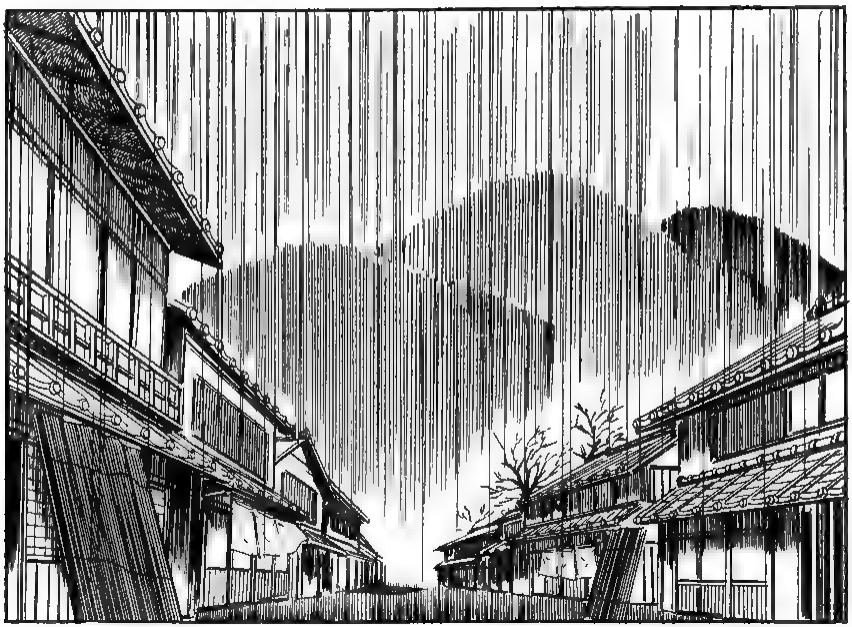


WHENEVER YOU RUN OUT, LET US KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. WE'LL SEND YOU AS MANY AS YOU NEED.
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR EVERYTHING.
I WISH YOU WELL.





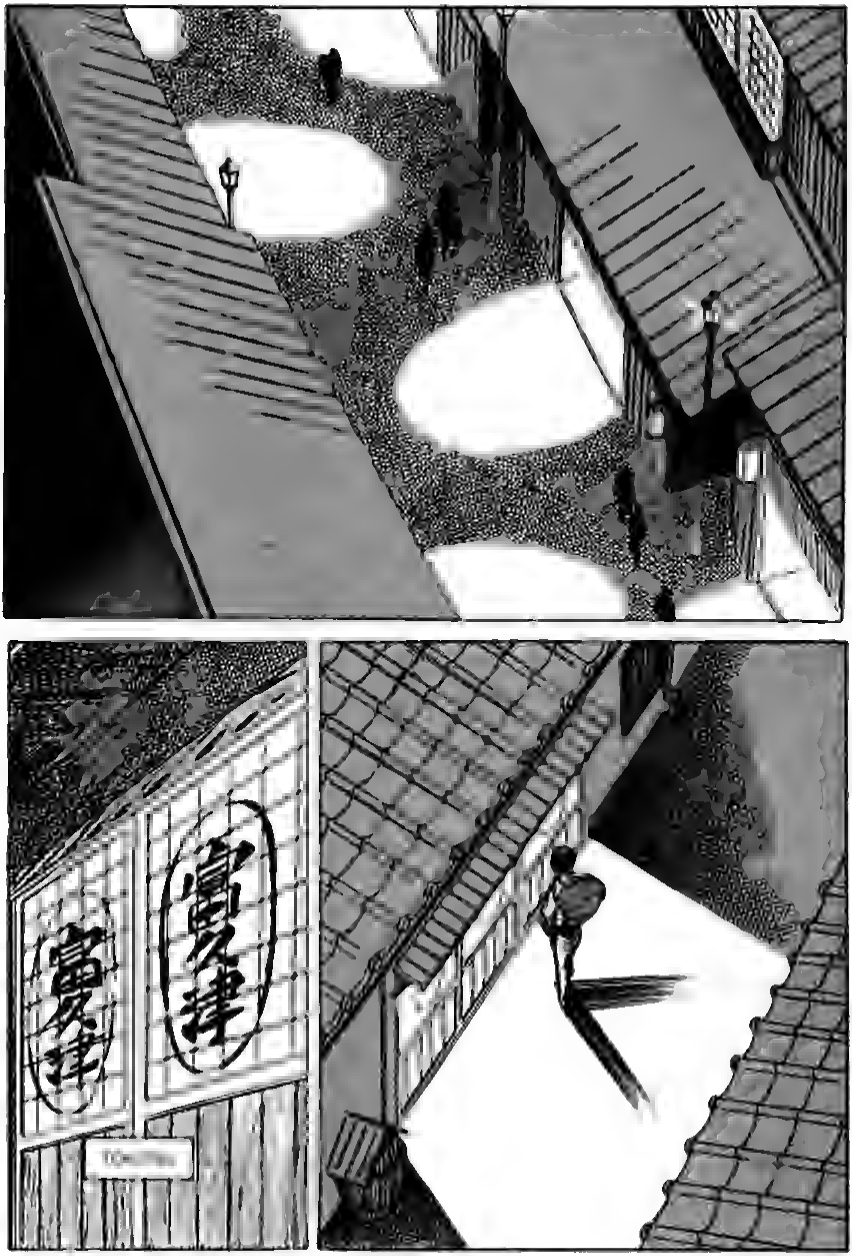
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I SEE, IT'S CLEVERLY MADE. WE HAVE A LOT OF WITHERED OLD WOMEN COME TO STAY HERE. I BET THEY'LL LIKE THIS. WHEN THESE GRANNIES VISIT OUR HOT SPRING, MANY OF THEM GULP DOWN SAKE, START A RACKET, AND END UP DEMANDING MALE ENTERTAINERS. BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY, AND WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. NOW, THIS IS PERFECT. LET ME TAKE TEN OF THEM.
POP
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MEN CAN USE TOO?
I SEE. HEH HEH HEH.
MEN CAN USE IT THIS WAY.

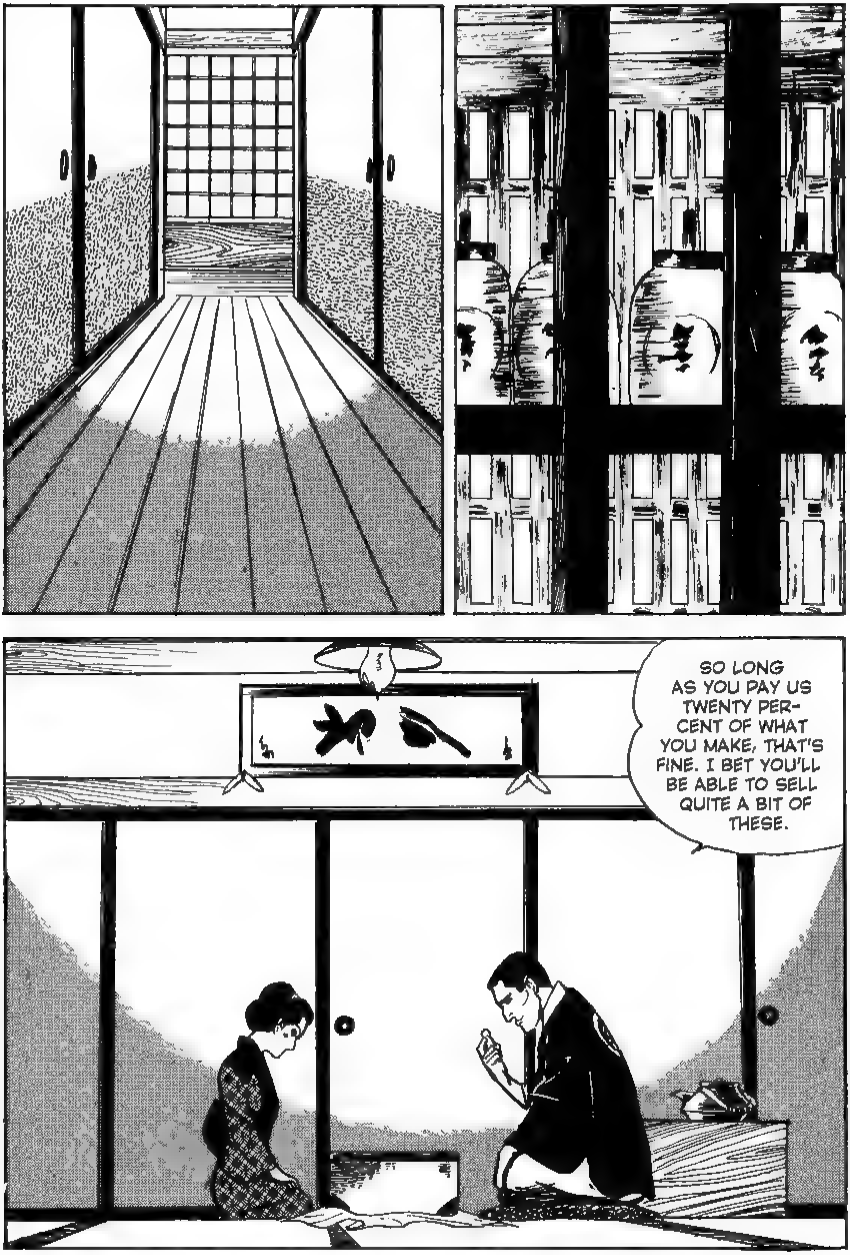


BAMBOO LADIES, HUH? THEY'RE FOR THE SUMMER SEASON...WE STILL HAVE FIVE OR SIX. THEY'RE POPULAR AMONG THE GRAMPS, YOU KNOW.

SANSKYA NN

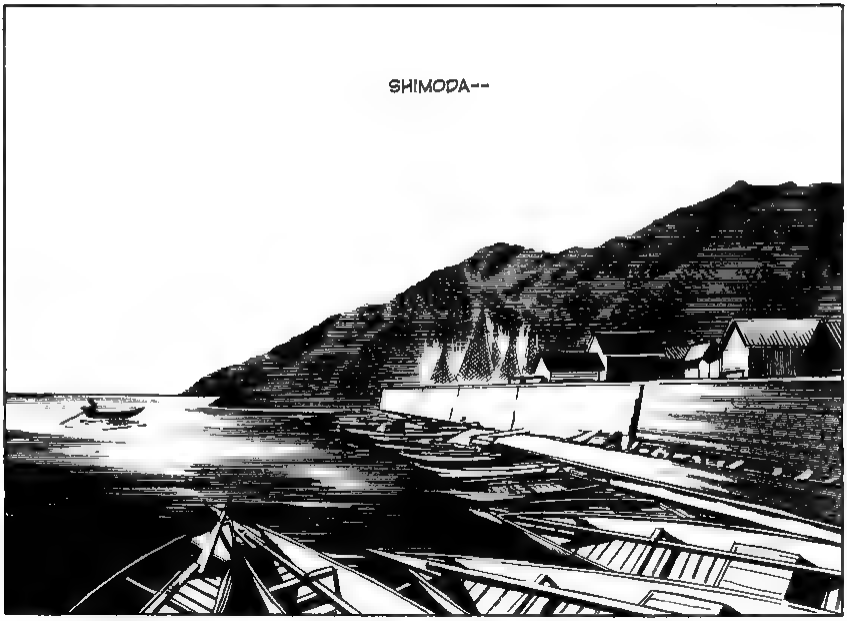
I GUESS IT NEVER FEELS GOOD TO SLEEP ALONE NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU GET...GETTING WARM AFTER DIPPING IN THE HOT SPRING...THEY GET TOO HOT TO FALL ASLEEP... BUT UNLIKE YOUNG MEN, THEY CAN'T SLEEP NAKED, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO CATCH COLD EITHER.
INCLUDING YOU TOO. IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT, YOU'D BETTER GO RIGHT AWAY.
HMM, I HAVE AN IDEA. WHY DON'T YOU GO VISIT THE TOKUTSU FAMILY? EVERY TRAVELING MERCHANT MUST PAY THEM A VISIT ANYWAY.
WELL... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO MADE THEM.

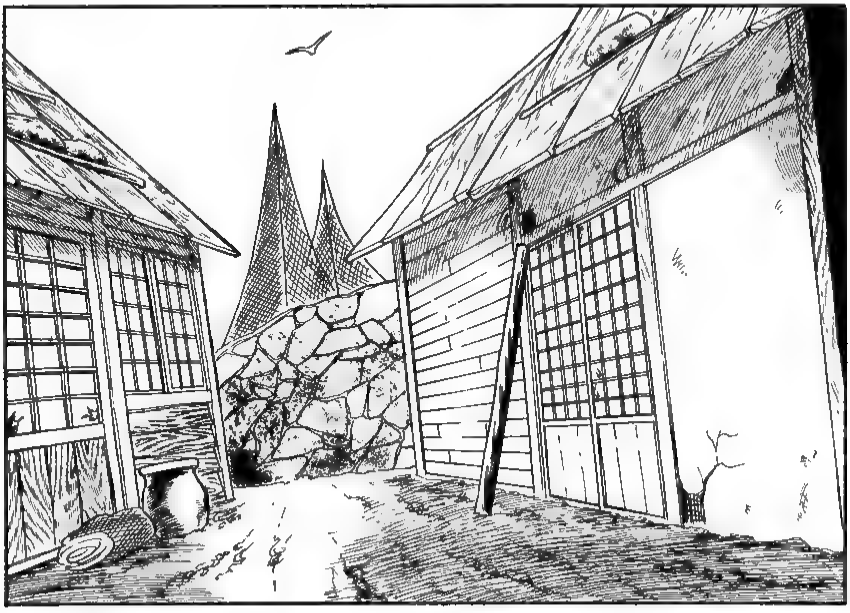

寛津
寛津

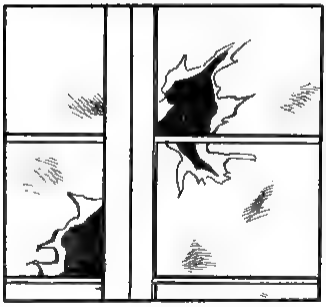

SO LONG AS YOU PAY US TWENTY PER-CENT OF WHAT YOU MAKE, THAT'S FINE. I BET YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SELL QUITE A BIT OF THESE.

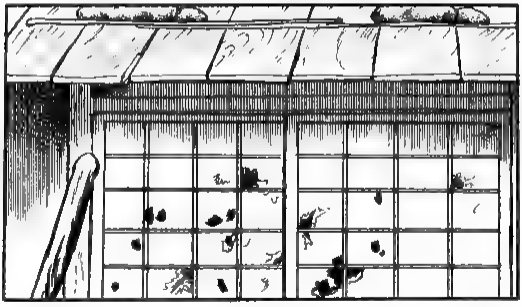
YES. I OWE HIM A DUTY FOR WHAT HE'S DONE FOR ME LONG AGO.
YOU SAID YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GUY WHO SELLS BAMBOO LADIES.
WELL, THERE WAS A MAN LAST SUMMER WHO USED OUR SHED AND MADE BAMBOO LADIES TO SELL...
I THINK... HIS NAME WAS SOMETHING LIKE HANZO OF TAKE.
WHO KNOWS... I HAVE NO IDEA. BUT HE WASN'T ALONE. HE WAS WITH A GIRL ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.
WHERE COULD HE BE NOW?

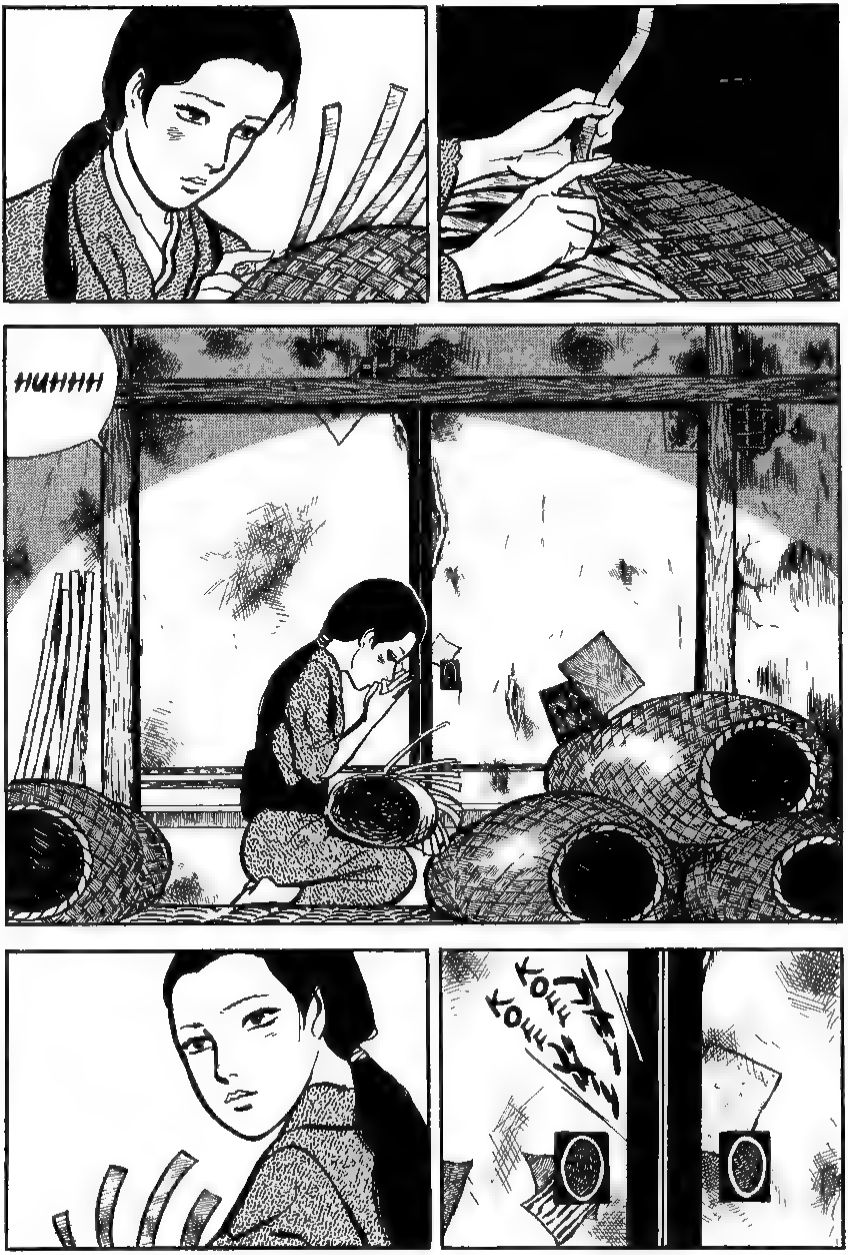
WITH A GIRL ...?
IF YOU WANT, I'LL WRITE A LETTER FOR YOU THAT EXPLAINS YOUR SITUATION.
IT WON'T BE SO HARD TO FIND THEM. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO GO SOUTH FROM HERE. JUST FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF BAMBOO LADIES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


SHIMODA--





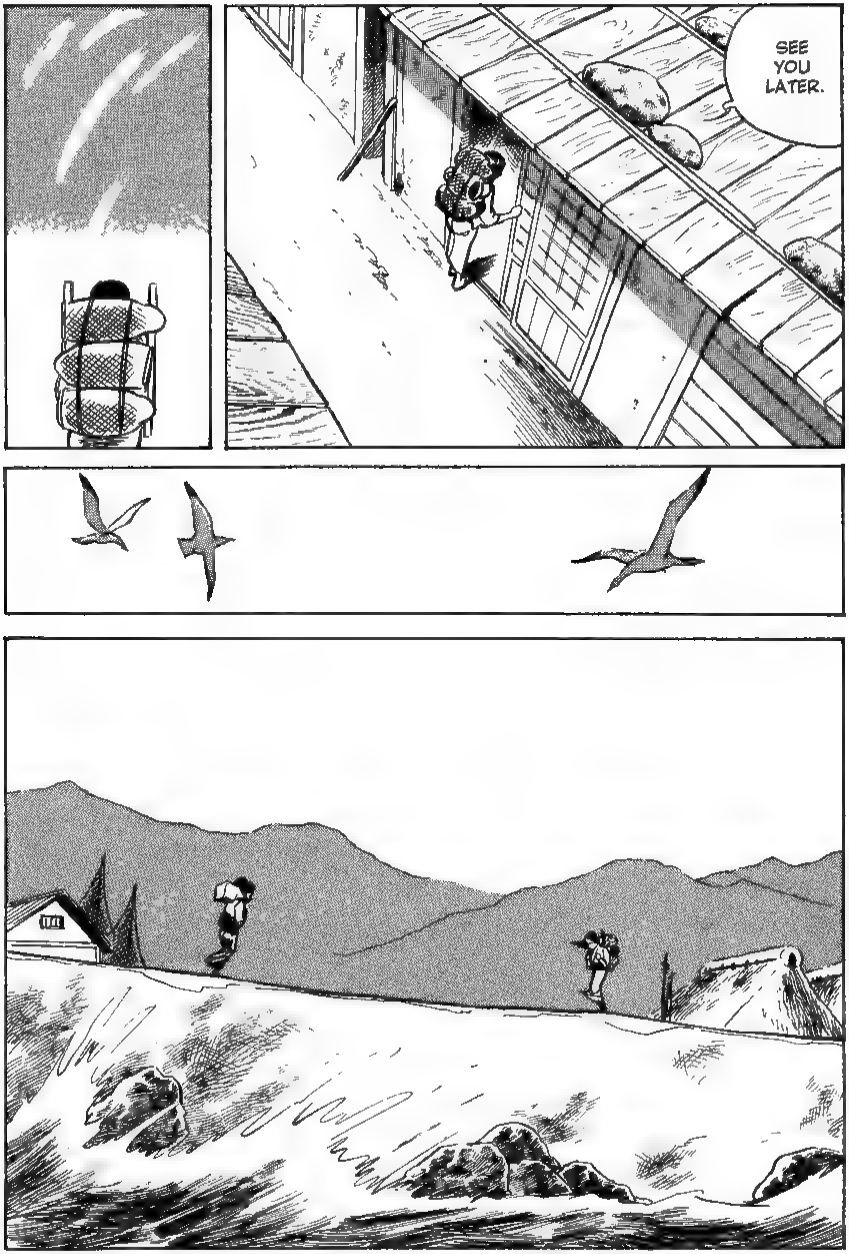


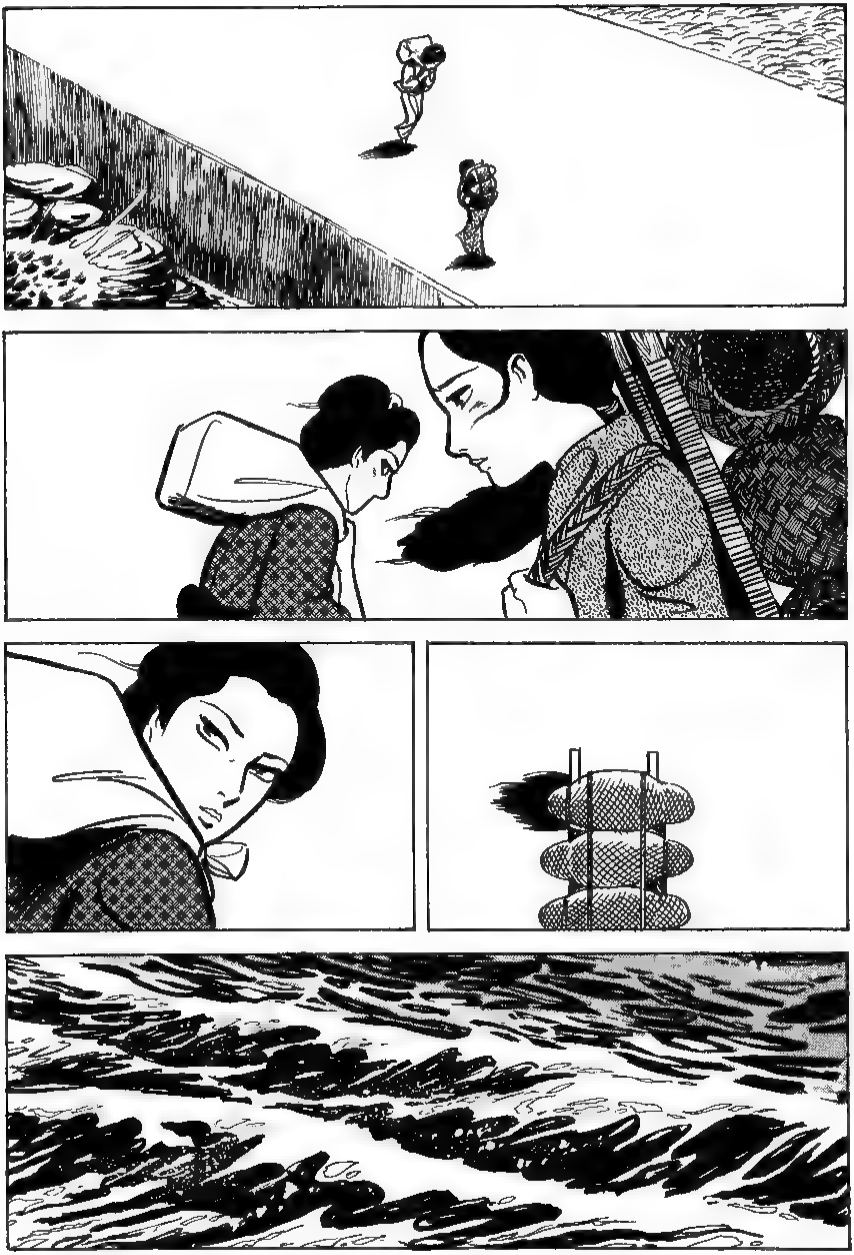

HUHHH
KOCH KOCH

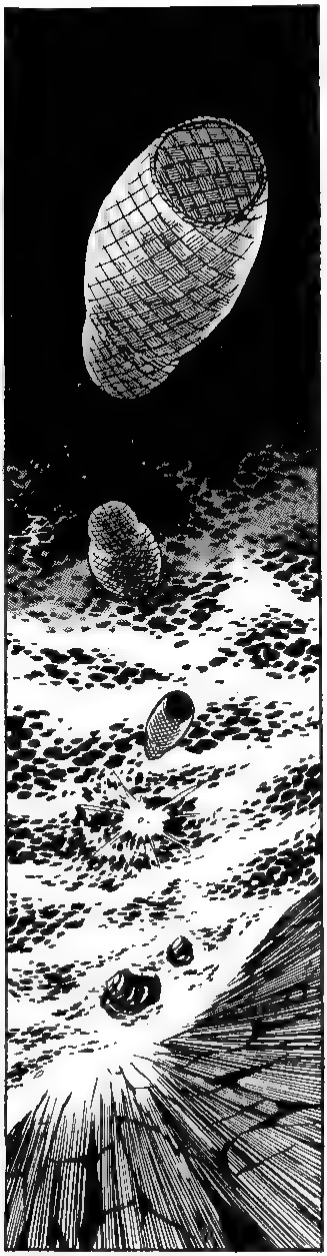
O...
O...

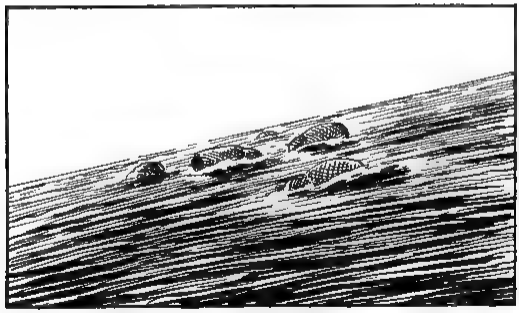
I'M SO SORRY, KOBUE, THAT I HAVE TO PUT YOU THROUGH THIS HARD LIFE.
PLEASE BE STRONG, PA. REMEMBER, THE DOCTOR SAID YOU'LL GET BETTER SOON?
I'LL GO AND DELIVER THE BAMBOO LADIES I JUST FINISHED. WE'VE GOT SO MANY ORDERS THAT I CAN BARELY KEEP UP, YOU KNOW. AND I'M HAPPY WE'RE DOING SO WELL.
IS THAT RIGHT? THEY'RE SELLING THAT WELL?

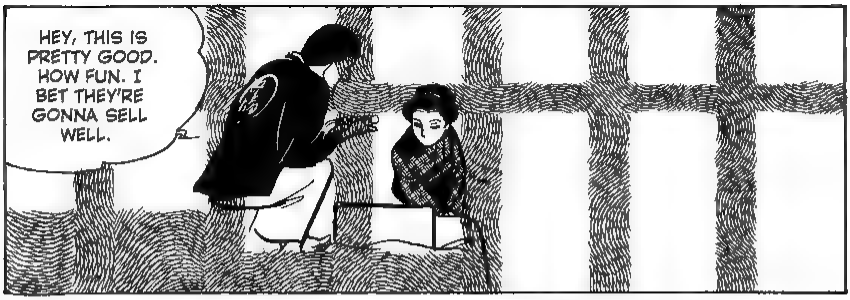
THANK YOU, KOBUE.
MINE SEEM TO BE MORE POPULAR THAN YOURS, PA. TEE HEE.
...
...
JUST DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING. YOU RELAX AND RECUPERATE. I WANT YOU TO GET BETTER.
I HAVE TO GO. I'LL BUY SOMETHING TASTY WITH THE MONEY I GET.


SEE YOU LATER.

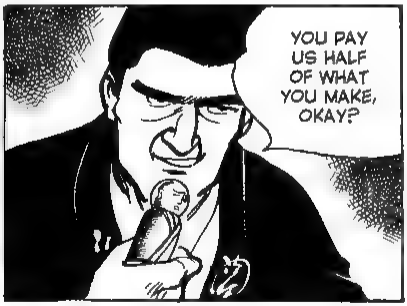







HEY, THIS IS PRETTY GOOD. HOW FUN. I BET THEY'RE GONNA SELL WELL.

YES.


YOU PAY US HALF OF WHAT YOU MAKE, OKAY?

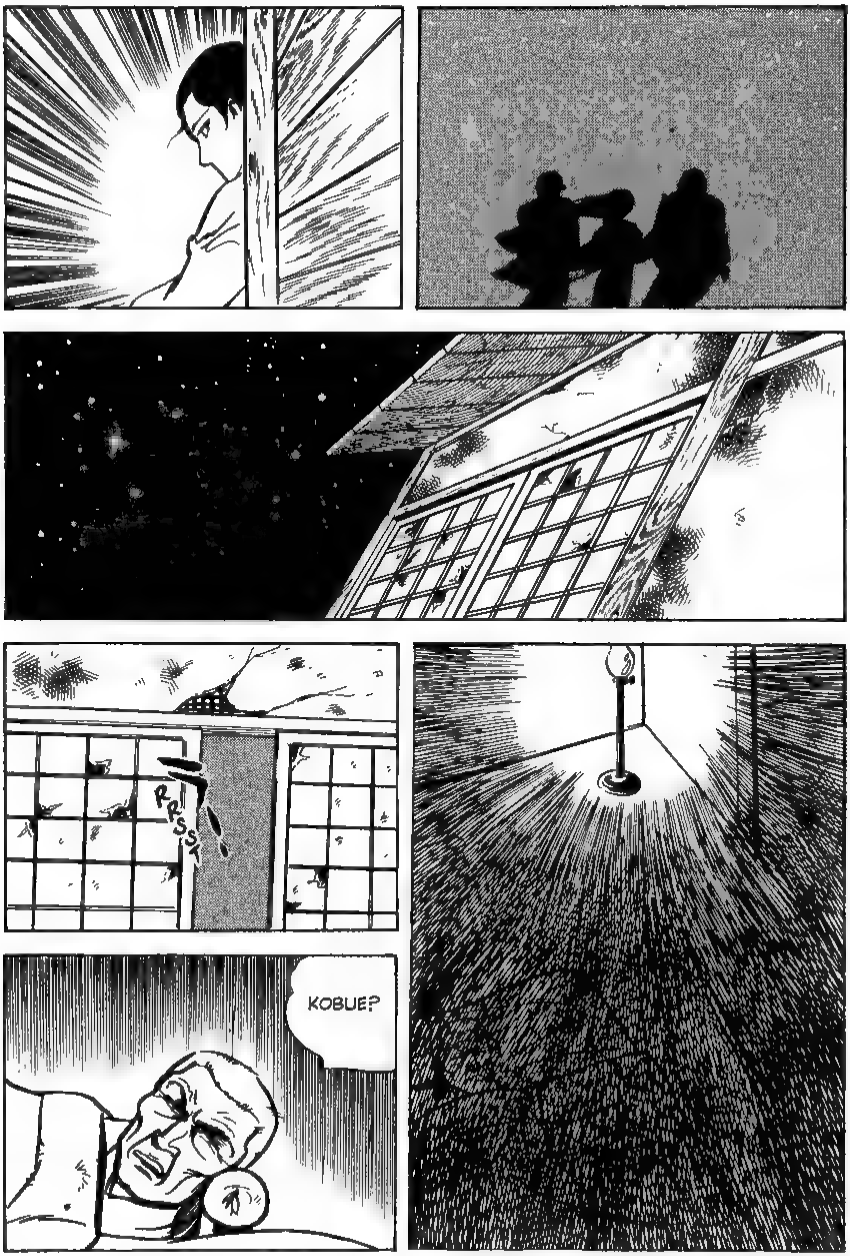
IT'S YOU, KOBUE. DO YOU NEED SOME MONEY?
THAT'S OKAY. COME OVER HERE.
YES...I'M SORRY, BUT I DO...

Y-YES.
DID YOU THROW THE BAMBOO LADIES DOWN INTO THE OCEAN AGAIN TODAY?
I TAKE MY HAT OFF TO THE WAY YOU TREAT YOUR FATHER.
TOO BAD, AFTER YOU WORK SO HARD TO MAKE THEM. IT'S JUST THAT OUR SHED IS LOADED NOW AND THERE'S NO MORE SPACE TO PUT THEM.
IF ONLY THERE WERE CUSTOMERS WHO'D BUY 'EM... BUT NO ONE WANTS THEM NOW.
BUT I GUESS SO LONG AS YOU CAN GIVE YOUR FATHER PEACE OF MIND, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH, RIGHT?
HERE. THIS MAKES THE TOTAL TEN YEN.

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T FORCE YOU TO DO IT. BUT THERE'S THIS MAN WHO REALLY WANTS TO MEET YOU TONIGHT. DO YOU MIND SHOWING YOUR FACE JUST A BIT? YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME UNTIL AFTER YOUR FATHER IS ASLEEP.
OH
TH-THANK YOU AS ALWAYS.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GETTING OUT THERE TO ENTERTAIN? DO YOU FEEL READY NOW?
I'LL SEND MY MEN TO FETCH YOU LATER.
I-I'LL COME.

...
...
OOPS, I FORGOT TO MENTION, BUT THAT GIRL IS THE ONE. HER NAME IS KOBUE, HANZO'S ONLY DAUGHTER. A VERY NICE GIRL. HIS DEVOTED DAUGHTER.
...
...
HA HA HA HA
IF YOU WANT, I'LL BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE A JOB FOR YOU. WITH YOUR LOOKS, I'M SURE YOU'LL BE POPULAR.
IF YOU OWE HANZO A DUTY, YOU'D BETTER WORK HARD AND HELP HIM OUT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

OVER HERE, KOBUE.
ANIKI IS WAITING. LET'S GO.
I'VE GOT TO COME BACK RIGHT AWAY, OTHERWISE MY PA WOULD...
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THAT. ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS TO SHOW YOUR FACE A LITTLE.

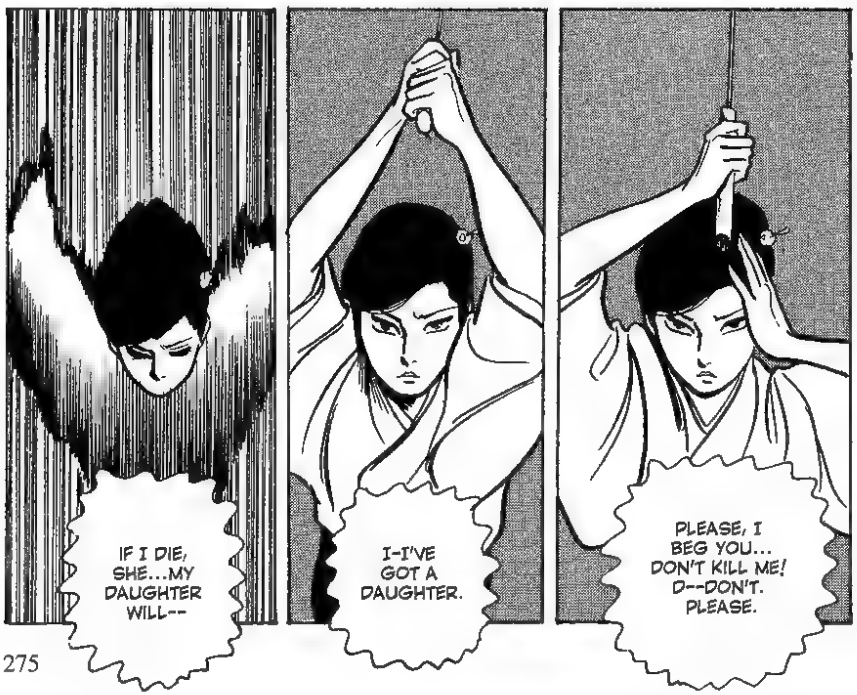

RRSSX
KOBUE?

FOOF
YOU MUST RECOGNIZE MY FACE, HANZO TAKEMURA!
I'M THE SPITTING IMAGE OF MY *MOTHER*, WHO SUFFERED AN INDIGNANT DEATH IN LOCK-UP! TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
THAT FACE...

I AM SYURA YUKI, THE DAUGHTER OF KASHIMA WHO FELL UNDER THE HANDS OF GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO, OKONO KITAHAMA, TOKUICHI SHOEI, AND YOU.
UHH.
NOW, GET READY TO SET OUT ON A JOURNEY OF DEATH.

AW...
OUCH...
NOW,
COME
WITH ME
TO THE
OCEAN.

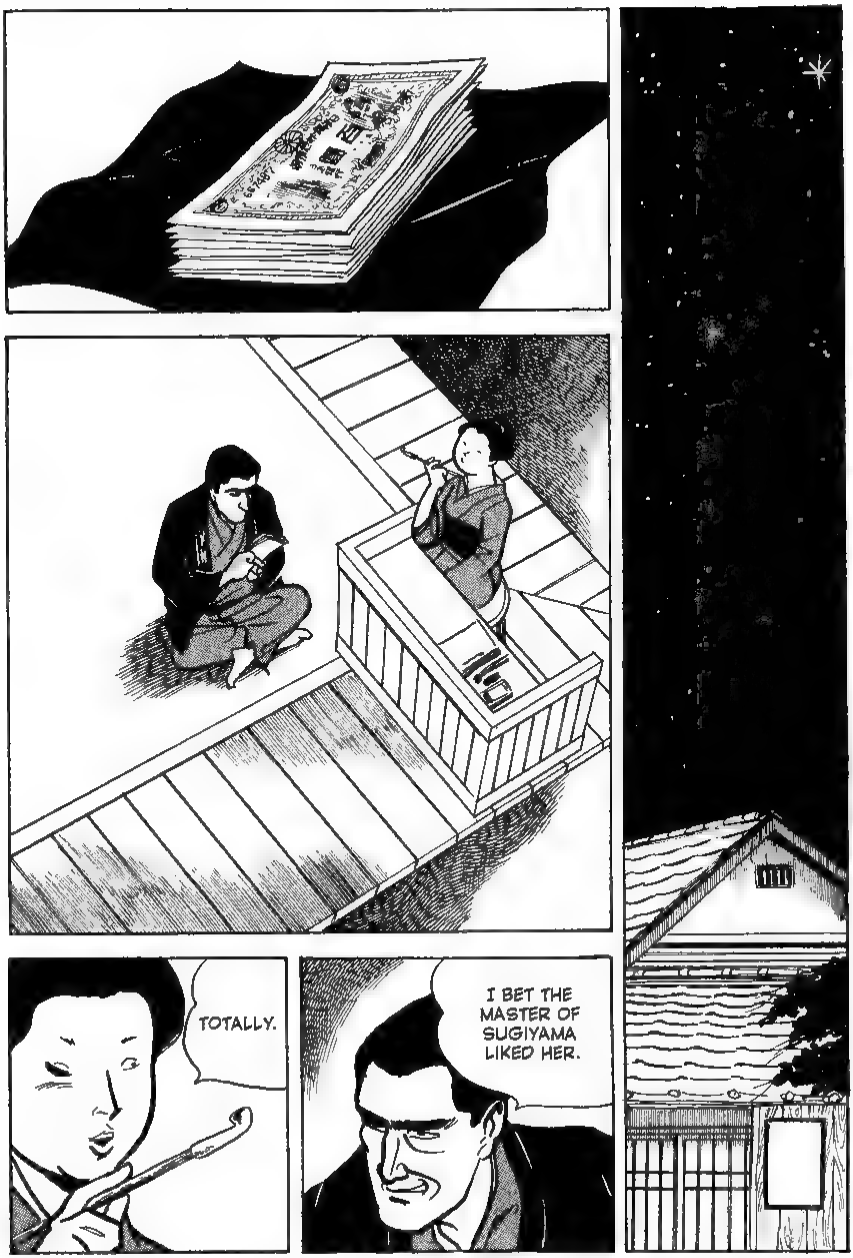
ヒョオオ
Hyooo
ヒョオオ
Hyooo


IF I DIE, SHE...MY DAUGHTER WILL--
I-I'VE GOT A DAUGHTER.
PLEASE, I BEG YOU... DON'T KILL ME! D--DON'T. PLEASE.

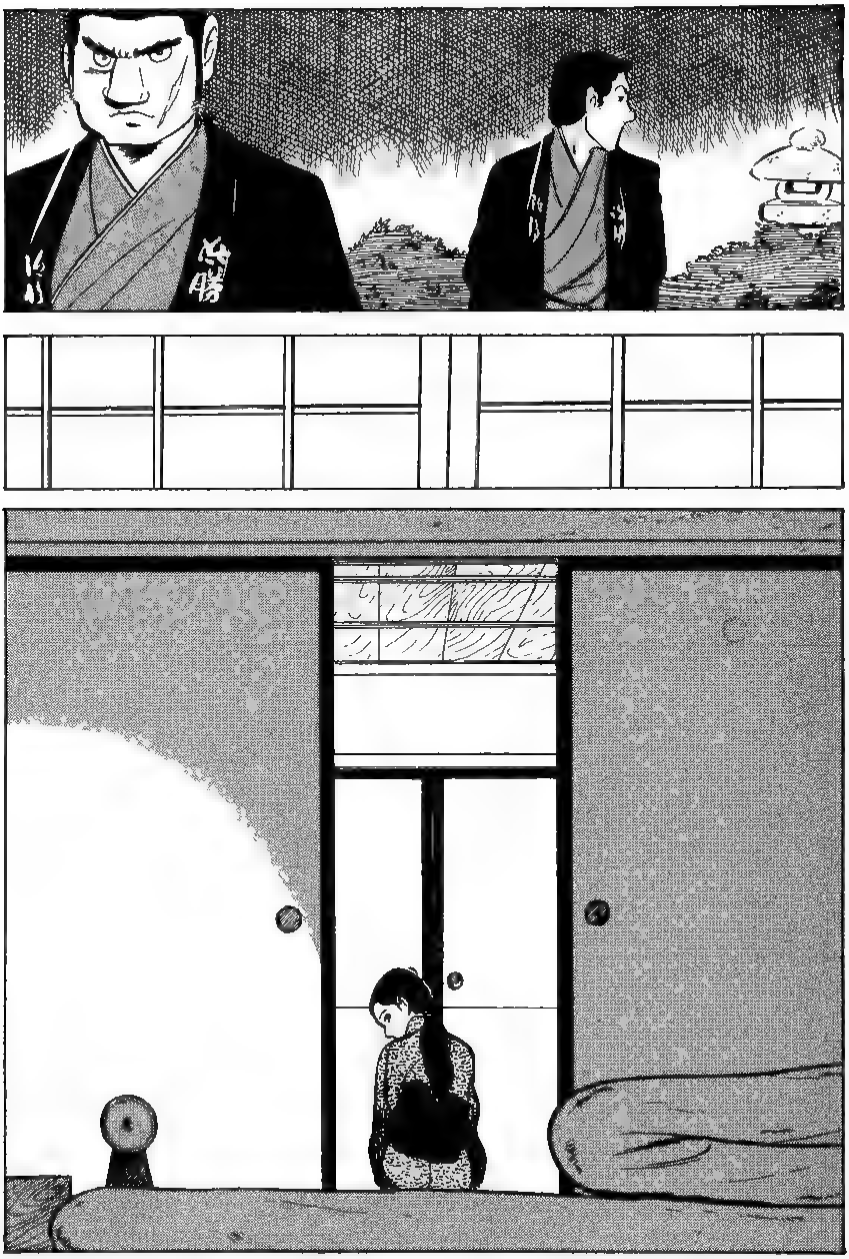
I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN... NOT EVEN A DAY... I'VE REMEMBERED IT EVERY DAY UNTIL I BECAME THIS OLD...
I-I'M SORRY, I DID WRONG. IT-IT WAS GISHIRO AND THE OTHERS WHO...ENTICED ME TO...DO THAT.
F-FORGIVE ME... LET ME GO...

HONORABLE RETRIBUTION!

MOTHER...
AT LAST... I TOOK REVENGE AT LAST...
MOTHER...

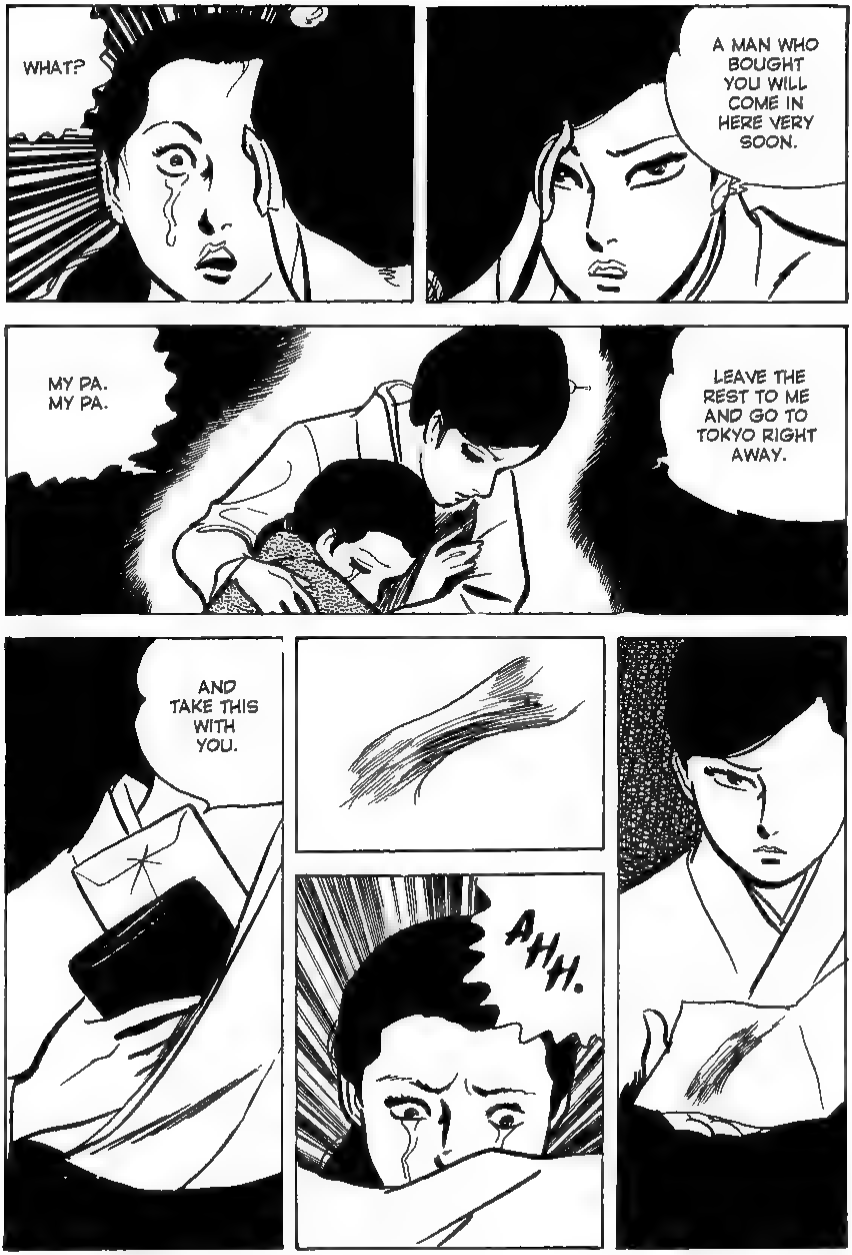

TOTALLY.
I BET THE MASTER OF SUGIYAMA LIKED HER.

TEE HEE HEE
SHE'S AN EXCEPTIONAL GEM YOU'LL BE WELL REWARDED MISTRESS
SOUNDS GOOD HEE HEE
AFTER THE PARTY WE'LL HAVE HIM GO TO THE ROOM WHERE THAT GIRL'S WAITING
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE MASTER?



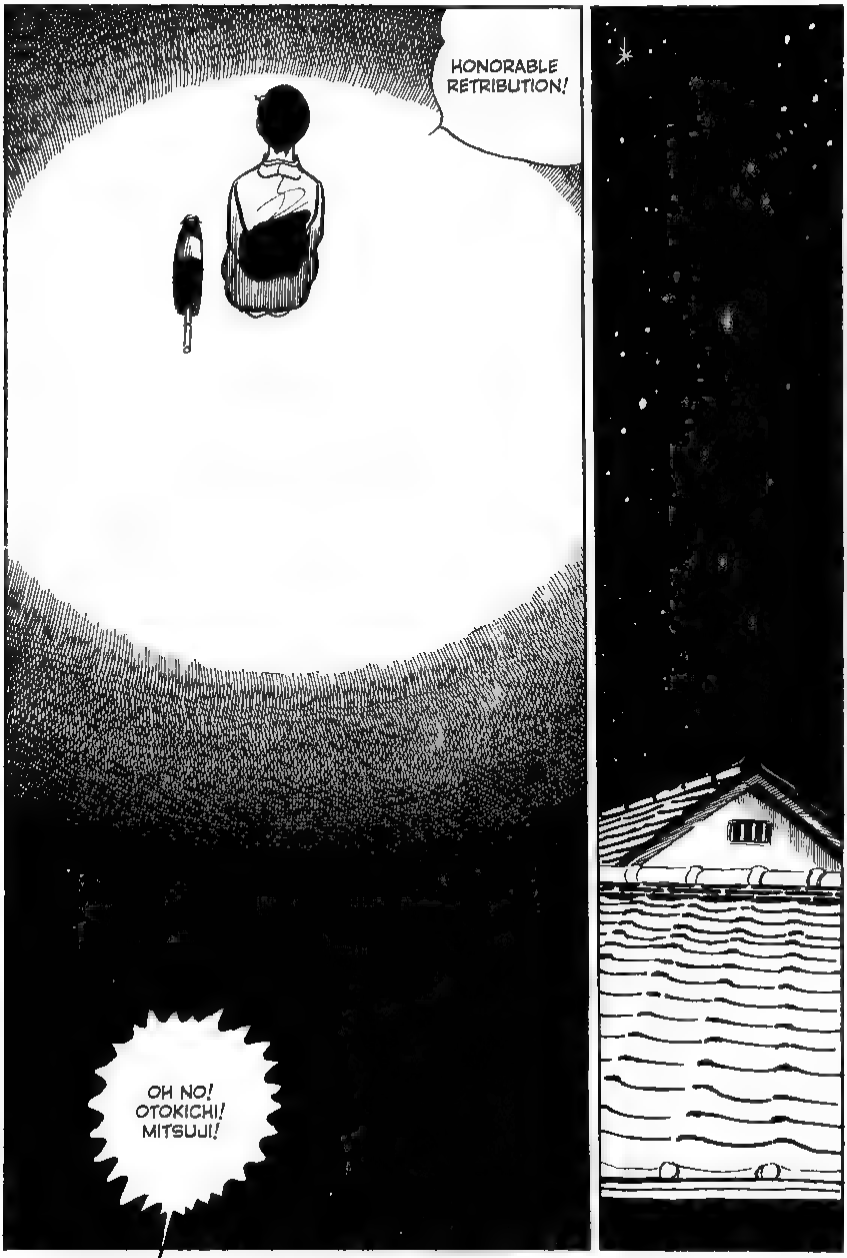
WH-
WHO
ARE--
HUH!
TUNK

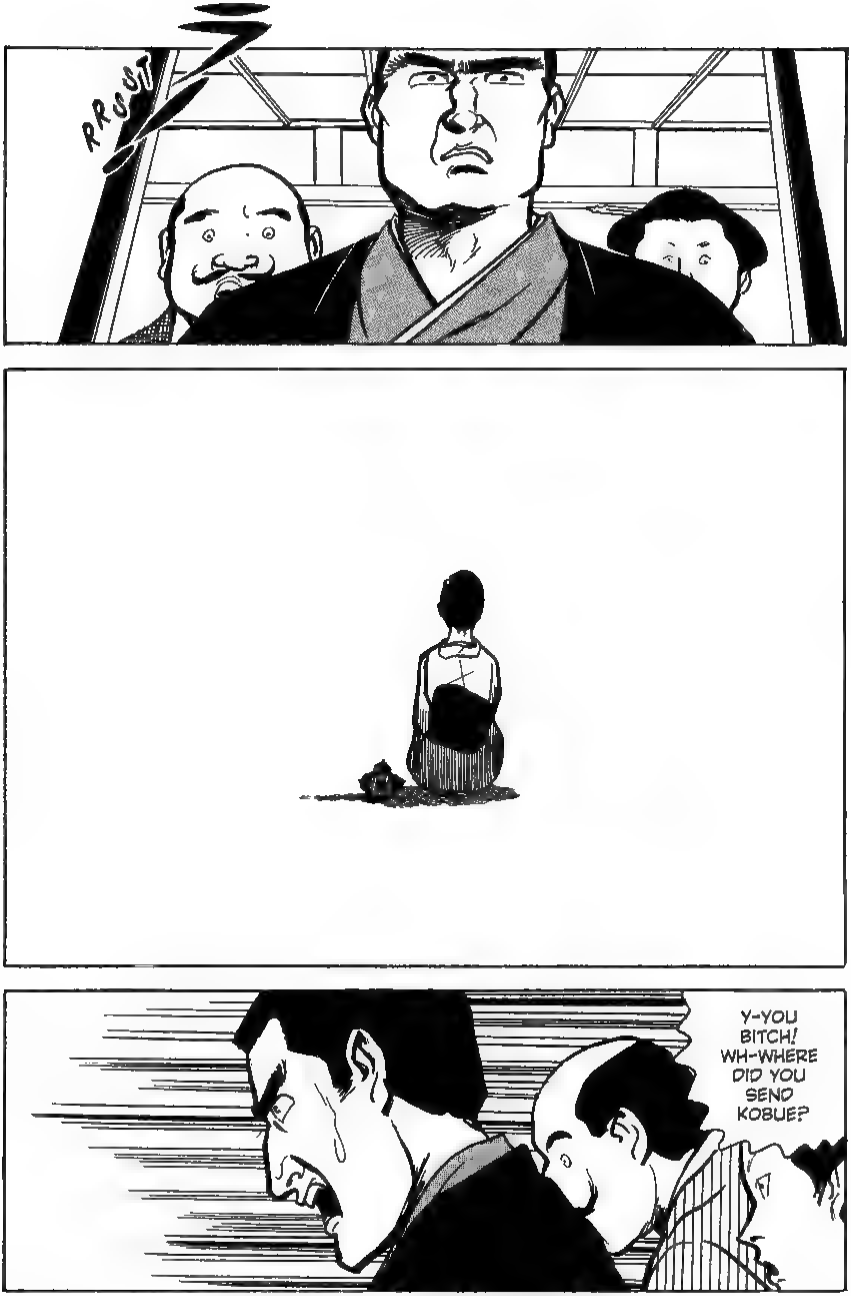
NO!
YOUR FATHER THREW HIMSELF INTO THE OCEAN.
HE COMMITTED SUICIDE WITH RESOLVE. YOUR FATHER KNEW EVERYTHING--ABOUT THE BAMBOO LADIES NOT SELLING, ABOUT YOU MAKING THEM ONLY TO THROW THEM AWAY, YOU BORROWING MONEY FROM THE HAMAKATSU FAMILY...
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY. YOUR FATHER KILLED HIMSELF BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO YOU ANYMORE.
PA... MY PA....
NOOO...


WHAT?
A MAN WHO BOUGHT YOU WILL COME IN HERE VERY SOON.
MY PA. MY PA.
LEAVE THE REST TO ME AND GO TO TOKYO RIGHT AWAY.
AND TAKE THIS WITH YOU.
AHH.

YOU GO STRAIGHT TO HIM. YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM, RIGHT? HE'S A FAMOUS WRITER.
To Mr. Gaikotsu Miyahara--- Respectfully Yours.
COME NOW. YOU'D BETTER HURRY AND GO. DON'T STOP AT YOUR PLACE. GO STRAIGHT TO TOKYO, OKAY?
B-BUT...

WH-
WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?
THAT'S WHAT YOUR FATHER WISHED UPON HIS DEATH.
JUST GO.
I AM OYUKI... I'M AN OLD, OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF YOUR FATHER.
PA... MY PA...
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND LIVE WELL.

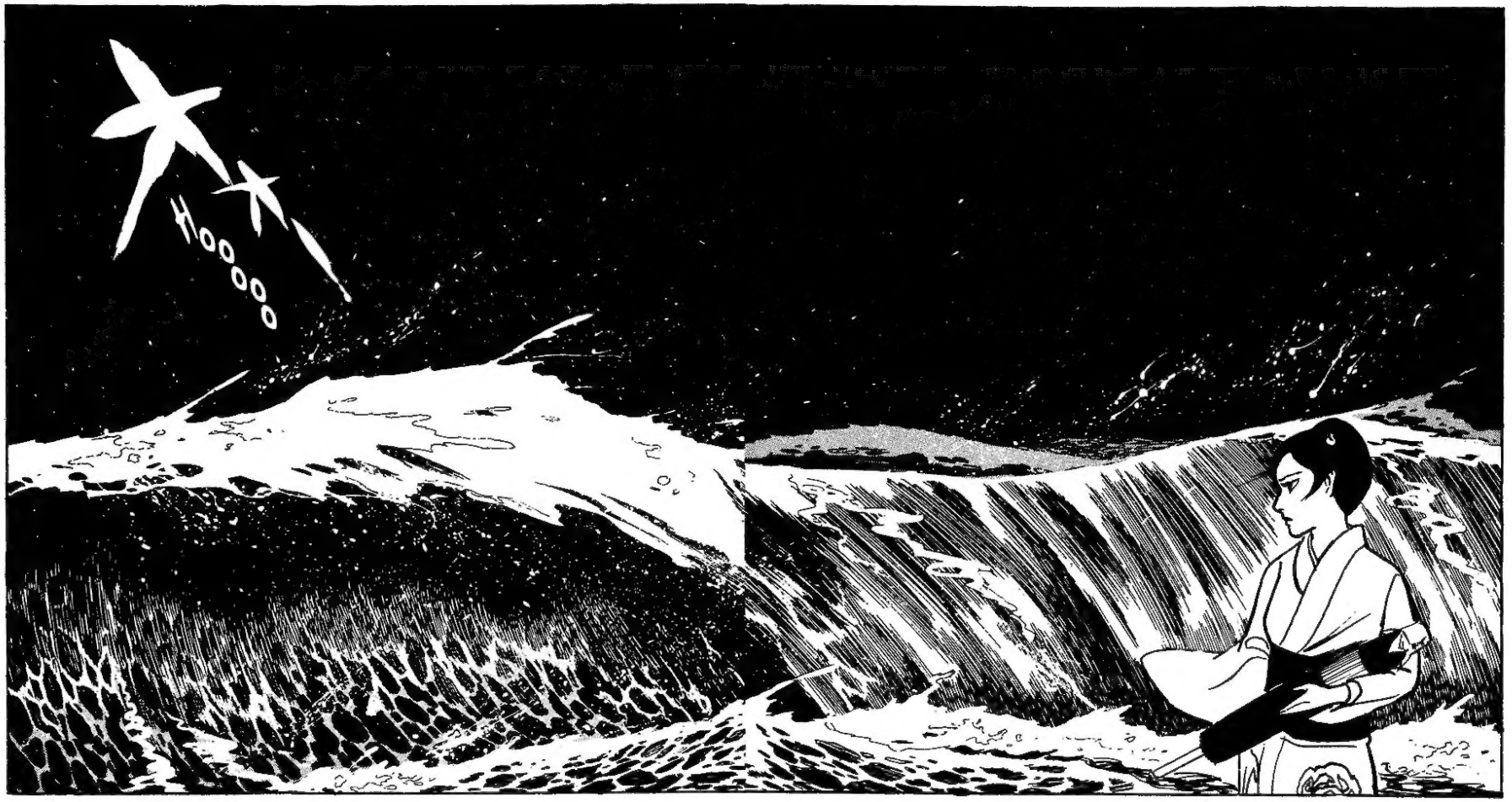

HONORABLE RETRIBUTION!
OH NO! OTOKICHI! MITSUJI!

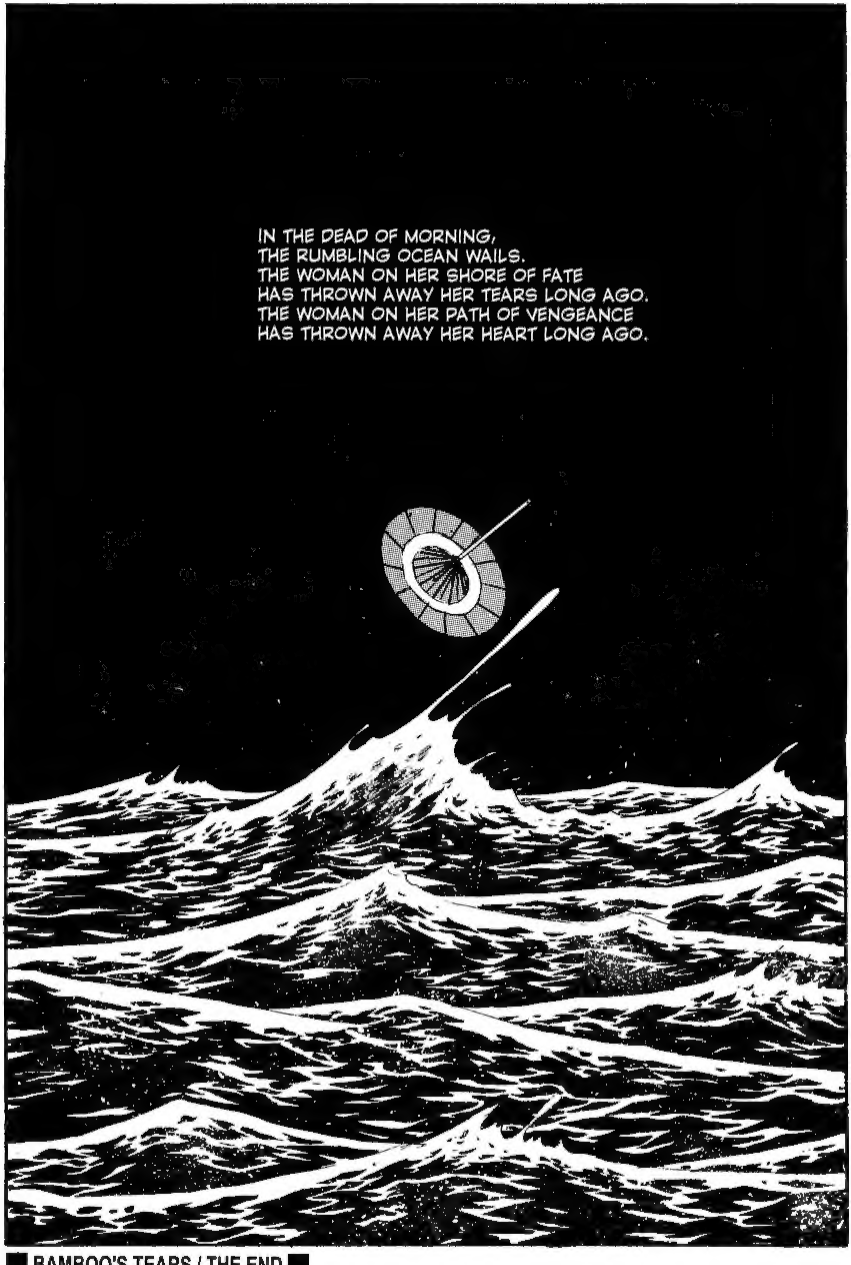

PROUT
Y-YOU BITCH! WH-WHERE DID YOU SEND KOBUE?

EEEK!

IF YOU LAY YOUR HANDS ON KOBUE, I'LL TAKE YOUR LIFE.

OH NO... THE FAMOUS MURDERER...
I AM SYURA YUKI.


HOOOOO


IN THE DEAD OF MORNING,
THE RUMBLING OCEAN WAILS.
THE WOMAN ON HER SHORE OF FATE
HAS THROWN AWAY HER TEARS LONG AGO.
THE WOMAN ON HER PATH OF VENGEANCE
HAS THROWN AWAY HER HEART LONG AGO.

■ BAMBOO'S TEARS / THE END ■
■ SYURA YUKI HIME, RETRIBUTION / THE END ■

GLOSSARY

aniki
Older brother.

geta
A wooden-soled shoe worn by the Japanese.

honorifics
Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Lady Snowblood*:
dono – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures.
san – the most common, used among equals or near-equals.
sama – used for superiors.
sensei – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians.

kotatsu
A *kotatsu* is a traditional type of Japanese heater-table. Structurally, a *kotatsu* is a low, open wooden frame covered by a blanket, upon which a tabletop sits. Underneath is a heat source, often built into the table itself.

kuroko
A stagehand in kabuki theatre. They are veiled and dressed in black to indicate that they are stagehands, and not part of a performance.

mon
An old Japanese monetary unit.

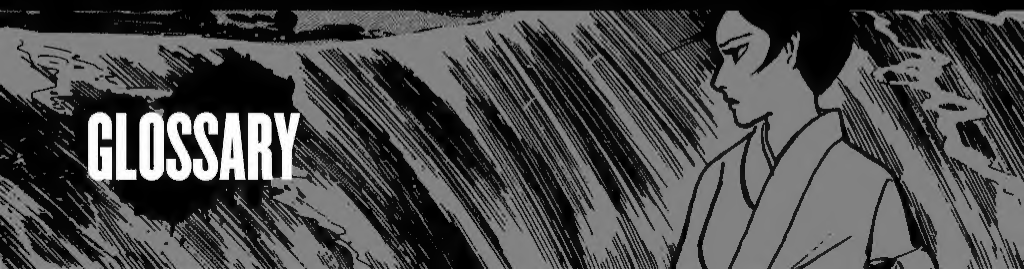
sen
1 sen is 1/100 of 1 yen.

Shimoda
Shimoda city is the largest tourists' destination in the southern Izu peninsula, offering hot springs, historical spots, and exquisite scenery.

syura
Demon's realm. A form of hell.

tatami
Tatami mats (originally meant "folded and piled") are a traditional Japanese flooring. Made of woven straw, and traditionally packed with straw (though nowadays sometimes with Styrofoam), *tatami* are made in individual mats of uniform size and shape, bordered by brocade or plain black cloth.

yuki
Snow or snowflake.



GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANGA

RETRIBUTION PT. 2

Lady Snowblood is the story of a woman known as Syura Yuki (roughly "snow of hell") who carves a brutal path of death across the snowy landscape of reform-era Japan. As samurai were losing their bearings in a time of change, Yuki brought back the demonic spirit of vengeance. And the good part about this last volume of *Lady Snowblood* is that she saved her most hated targets for last. And yet, in the midst of a maelstrom of sex and violence, the reader will still catch a few glimpses of warmth and human compassion. That's because Kazuo Koike, the creator of the popular *Lone Wolf and Cub* manga, knows how to build around good characters, and *Lady Snowblood* is certainly no exception. See how it all ends in volume 4, the second part of "Retribution."

Skillfully written by Kazuo Koike of *Lone Wolf & Cub* fame and master-drafted by Kazuo Kamimura, *Lady Snowblood* is a sexy story of a woman bound by dire desires.

LADY SNOW BLOOD

PRESENTED BY KAZUO KOIKE & KAZUO KAMIMURA

修羅雪姫

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